

King: No more room for PLO concessions

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) has little room left for political concessions in getting peace talks started with Israel, according to an interview published in an American newspaper.

"If the PLO appears to be giving and giving and giving and more is demanded of it, that can be the result, except for making the foundation of confidence that it has from its constituency," King Hussein said in an interview published in the Boston Globe newspaper.

"My fear, my worry here is that there are possibly attempts to undermine the PLO, to destroy its image with its own constituency," he said.

King Hussein's warning came amid increased pressure from Arab leaders who have told PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that he has gone too far towards satisfying the U.S. demands sur-

King Hussein said even though the PLO had met U.S. criteria for becoming peace negotiating partners, the peace dialogue has remained stalled.

Basically, my feeling is that the Israeli leadership in power now is afraid of peace," King Hussein told the Boston Globe. "It is afraid to take a historic gamble and make a historic contribution..." he said.

He said the PLO's key decision to accept Israel's right to exist and adopt U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 had not spurred the peace process," and if Secretary of State James Baker failed to break the stalemate "the situation will deteriorate."

King Hussein told the Globe that Jordan, which in 1988 cut legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, would play a role in supporting the PLO's efforts to secure a role in negotiating an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On a different subject, King Hussein said people behind recent shootings on Jordan's ceasefire line with Israel were aiming to create tension.

There is a new situation on the ceasefire line... resulting from attacks aimed at creating a climate of tension," newspapers quoted King Hussein as saying Monday at a tree-planting ceremony.

"Perhaps there are aims and goals which go beyond limited operations against Jordan and there may be more than one party involved in mounting them," he said.

There have been several outbreaks of gunfire this month along the ceasefire line.

On Jan. 7 the Israeli army said its troops killed a Jordanian soldier in a gunbattle after he crossed the border in the northern area of Hamat Gader. The Jordanian army said a conscript based in the area and gone missing the previous day.

HM King Hussein

A Damascus-based Palestinian group, Fatah Uprising, claimed responsibility for what it said were guerrilla attacks on Israeli military patrols in the same area on Jan. 4 and 5.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said last week infiltrators trying to reach countries bordering Jordan would be shot.

Some Jordanian officials have said Israel is manufacturing border incidents to divert attention from its attempts to quell the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ACC premiers study closer integration

AGHDAH (Agencies) — The government leaders of the four countries in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) began talks Tuesday on closer economic integration and joint foreign policy stands.

The four from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen are planning for a summit of their heads of state in Amman next month.

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said the opening session Tuesday was the first step needed to achieve the ACC's goal of a regional common market.

"What we have achieved was a great significance... but the months ahead should witness more endeavours to put what was agreed upon into practice," he said.

Ramadhan, whose country is current president of the group, urged officials of the four countries to redouble their efforts and implement the accords signed since the council was formed last February.

Iraqi officials said the government leaders will discuss 12 draft accords prepared by junior ministers earlier this week aimed at enhancing cooperation between the four Arab countries.

They will also finalize appointments of senior officials of the Saddam-based secretariats and other bodies affiliated to the council.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received Prime Minister Mudar Badran who conveyed to him a message from His Majesty

King Hussein. The message dealt with bilateral relations and issues of common interest, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Iraqi president also received heads and members of the delegations participating in the ACC meeting.

Also in Baghdad the ACC ministers of interior signed the minutes of a meeting of senior officials of the ACC foreign ministries. Participants in the meeting, Iraq and Iran, President Hussein's peace initiative and the steps taken to unify the two Yemens, which they welcomed and considered to be a positive development toward Arab unity.

They also reviewed the latest development in the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian uprising.

Upon arriving in Baghdad Tuesday, Badran expressed Jordan's full support for the peace initiative made by President Hasein.

"This initiative, like the previous initiatives, reflects the true orientation on the part of the Iraqi leadership to find a just solution for the conflict with Iran," the prime minister added.

The prime minister is accompanied to the Baghdad meeting by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hassan al-Misharraf, Minister of Defense Marwan Al-Sayid, Minister of Transport Ibrahim Ayoub, Minister of Economy and Mineral Resources Tlibet Al Taher, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Farhi and the director of the prime minister's office.

Um Jihad urges reassessment of PLO approach and options

By Laimis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official of the mainstream Palestinian movement, Fatah, Tuesday urged the membership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reassess its approach to and options in the peace process and its one-year-old dialogue with the United States.

Intisar Wazir, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest faction of the PLO, also a member of the PLO leadership, said she would like the group to consider convening a Palestine National Council (PNC) session not only after careful deliberations and thorough dialogue among the various factions of the PLO.

"It is time for the leadership to reassess its tactics now that the peace process has reached a dead-end," Wazir (Um Jihad), widow of assassinated PLO military chief Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), told the Jordan Times.

"We should remain committed to the Palestinian peace strategy but not reconsider our policies and tactics," she said, fighting the Israeli transience and American attempts to marginalise the role of the PLO in the peace process," she said.

The call by Wazir, the first woman to reach the top echelons of Fatah, comes amid growing internal Palestinian pressure on the leadership to adopt a more radical approach to the peace talks with Israel and the

The French official blamed Israel and the U.S. for the deadlock in the peace process, but stressed that one of the main reasons for the stalemate was American backtracking in the direct negotiations with the P.L.O.

"By seeking intermediaries instead of dealing with the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people the U.S. weakened the dialogue and prevented it from achieving tangible progress," she said in reference to the emergence of Egypt as a mediator of conversations between Washington and the Tunis-based P.L.O.

Palestinian officials have said that the Egyptian role has replaced the actual direct dialogue between the U.S. and the P.L.O.

Yassir Arafat, who was elected to the Fatah Central Committee last August, urged Washington to restore the direct dialogue.

"The U.S. should reconsider its attitude towards the dialogue and restore its direct contact with the P.L.O. on the basis of the recognition of the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," she said.

Asked if she supported a call by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader George Habisah for an emergency session of the PNC to reconsider the Palestinian peace strategy, she said that any such step should be preceded by extensive inter-P.L.O. dialogue and consultation.

On Tuesday PNC Speaker Shrikh Abu Hamid Sayeh was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the PLO might call an extraordinary meeting of the PNC to discuss Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

PLO officials in Amman and Tunis told the Jordan Times that the idea of convening the PNC had not been discussed officially by the leadership but that it had been the focus of internal debate.

They said that the possible convening of the PNC should not necessarily mean the scrapping of the PLO's peace strategy.

Wazir said that she supported the continuation of the commitment to the peace strategy but favoured a reassessment of the means and tactics. The Fatah official said that any top-level meeting would be held after the end of the summer.

She also discussed and reviewed the recent changes in Eastern Europe, particularly the expected influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

"These are developments that we should seriously study for they are bound to have implications on the Palestinian situation," she said.

She said that PLO's commitment to support the continuation of the intifada and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people should remain the priority for the PLO.

"Realising a just and durable peace for the people of the region should be understood as a struggle in itself and we should find means and ways of promoting the struggle for a just peace," she said.

Bulgaria opposition sets its demands

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's opposition, flexing its muscles after the end of the Communists' monopoly on power, sat down with the government Tuesday and demanded its own newspaper and headquarters.

The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), the opposition umbrella group, told the Communist government it would not begin substantive talks on the future of the country until it had written guarantees that its two demands would be met.

"As far as I know 90 per cent of the buildings are state property and it seems strange to me that you cannot find one for us," UDF spokesman Georgi Spasov told the government.

Communist Party politburo member Andrei Lukanov told the opposition it could have a newspaper with a circulation of 50,000, but it would take time for municipal authorities to find a headquarters for the UDF.

Communist Party spokesman Alexander Mirchev, speaking after the meeting, told reporters that "the substantive talks did not begin."

Both he and the UDF's second

'Civil war' in Caucasus

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Fierce fighting raged Tuesday between Armenian and Azerbaijan volunteer squads on the border between their southern republics with troops sent in by Moscow apparently incapable of ending the violence.

Alexander Arzumanyan, a spokesman for the Armenian national movement — or Popular Front — said helicopters carrying armed volunteers had reached Azerbaijan carrying armed volunteers.

"Several helicopters carrying armed volunteers have been flying to Getashen village in the Khanlar district of Azerbaijan," he told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital, Yerevan. "Fierce exchanges of fire continued there today."

A Soviet newspaper described the fighting as a civil war, and authorities raised the death toll in the ethnic clashes to at least 56.

The Soviet Interior Ministry reported that armed bands had seized tanks, grenades, machine guns and unmarked helicopters during the unrest in Azerbaijan.

Soviet Television showed in

terior Ministry troops, enforcing a state of emergency declared Monday, firing into the air as they rode in armoured personnel carriers near Nagorno-Karabakh.

Interior Ministry spokesman Vladimir Yanchenkov reported 56 people had been killed and 11 injured in Azerbaijan since Thursday. Two of the dead were members of law enforcement agencies.

Most of the victims were Armenians, the ministry reported.

Yanchenkov told a briefing in Moscow that authorities had recorded 167 cases of arson at what he called "pogroms."

Foreign Ministry officials to Moscow-based foreign correspondent they would not be permitted to travel to Azerbaijan or Armenia, making independent confirmation impossible.

The fighting began with ethnically motivated attacks against Armenians in Baku, Azerbaijan capital. Some people reported they were burned alive.

"We can't bring ourselves to pronounce it aloud, but what is happening now in Karabakh, I

northern Azerbaijan, can termed unambiguously a chapter," correspondent O. Shapovalov wrote in the youth daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

Other reports compared it to fighting in the combat of World War II.

They described "open arm clashes" in the region, with 30 gunmen fighting in one battle as trenches being dug and other fortifications built to defend villages from attack.

The flareup is the most violent between mainly Muslim Azerbaijanis and mostly Christian Armenians since their decades-old feud over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted in fighting two years ago.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous region Azerbaijan 200 kilometers southeast of Moscow, is a predominantly Armenian region ruled by Azerbaijan since 1923. Both republics claim it.

Turkey said Tuesday it tightened security along the country's border with the Soviet Union, but did not elaborate. The Soviet Azerbaijanis are a Turkic-speaking ethnic group with close

cultural and historical ties with Turkey.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, seeking to defuse the worst effects of the dispute of his nearly five years in power, declared a state of emergency Monday night in Nagorno-Karabakh and near areas of Azerbaijan and the neighbouring republic of Armenia.

The decree empowered local officials to ban demonstrations and strikes, impose curfews, censor the media, confiscate weapons and disband unofficial organisations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters the measures were aimed only at protecting people.

"I would not interpret this as being at odds with glasnost and democracy," he said. "On the contrary, the step opposes anarchy."

Soviet media reported anarchy in many areas, with combatants taking hostages, and said government troops trying to get to areas of combat were delayed by crowds of people blocking roads.



Members of an Israeli sapper team search for pieces of an exploded bomb in the Shuafat Arab neighbourhood on the outskirts of occupied Jerusalem.

PLO slams Shamir

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official Tuesday denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for saying Israel needed to retain the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Shamir's statement was a further obstacle to peace and called on the United States to take a tougher stand against him.

"The new statement by Shamir is yet more proof that the Israeli government does not want peace and is not serious when talking about a settlement," Abu Sharif told the AP in an interview.

He added that the United States "has a special responsibility as it has always demanded acceptance by the PLO of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which recognizes Israel, while Israel still does not recognise the Palestinians."

Shamir declared Monday that Israel needs to retain the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to settle an influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Abu Sharif said the PLO saw this new statement by the Israeli leader as "proof of the colonialist and anti-Palestinian policies it pursues."

He added that "this statement will result in more tension and instability in the region."

"But despite Shamir's obstructive policy the PLO will persist in its policy of seeking a peaceful settlement."

"The United States is called upon to pressure Israel to start peace talks with the Palestinians immediately and to advance this peace effort," Abu Sharif said.

Shamir also heard blunt criticism of his government from Israel's newest citizens — Soviet Jews.

Shamir met recent arrivals in

Palestinians protest random killings of 'collaborators'

NABLUS, occupied West Bank city (Agencies) — Palestinians in masks and uniforms marched through Nablus for a second day on Tuesday to oppose the unjustified killing of Palestinians suspected of helping the Israeli occupation authorities.

Residents said 30 Palestinians calling themselves the Revolutionary Security, marched through the casbah (market) in the West Bank city. Some carried pistols, they said.

A dozen masked Revolutionary Security members staged a similar march in Nablus Monday when they fired several shots into the air, residents said.

The group vowed to fight thieves and those who abuse power, a reference to militant nationalists who have defied calls by underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising to shun the labor force than kill suspected collaborators.

Residents said the Revolutionary Security said the Revolution

tionary Security supported the mainstream Fatch group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.). Fatch recently issued leaflets calling for an end to collaborator killings and stealing from merchants.

Gangs killed several suspected collaborators in Nablus last year in defiance of the uprising leadership. The Israeli army killed two gang leaders and arrested several members in Nablus last month.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded eight Palestinians in clashes with stone-throwing youths, Arab hospitals said.

The army closed seven schools in Gaza City and two in Jabalya refugee camp, saying pupils were protesting instead of studying. The army has now shut 11 schools in the strip.

The army said troops demobilised the home of an Arab militant in Gaza.

cused of organising Palestinian strike forces that attacked suspected collaborators.

They also destroyed rooms the homes of two other Bar Shehla residents arrested in connection with the strike forces. Troops sealed a Gaza City home belonging to an Arab suspected of killing two Gazans.

In Jerusalem, police ordered Arab merchants to close their shops in the walled Old City as report for questioning about the stabbing of an Israeli woman soldier Monday.

Israel reduced peace campaigner Abie Nathan's prison term for meeting PLO leader Yassir Arafat from six months to four months Tuesday, citing good behaviour.

"It was not unexpected. The commissioner has the right to reduce sentences by one-third," prisoners spokeswoman said.

Nathan, jailed Oct. 10, will

Saud heads for U.S. to seek support for Lebanon plan

PARIS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, is expected to visit Washington Tuesday in support for joint Arab efforts to end Lebanon's long-running civil war.

The Saudi embassy in Paris said Saud flew to Washington via Paris soon after talks in Algiers with officials from Algeria and Morocco — fellow mediators in Lebanese peace efforts.

A Saudi embassy official described Saudi's Washington trip as private but added that it would include talks with U.S. officials, Lebanon and the Middle East. They gave no details.

"The minister came straight from the talks in Algiers and normally this is something that will be discussed in Washington," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Saud stopped in Paris Monday night. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said no official meetings had been planned during his brief stay here.

But a well-placed Arab source said

Sand held talks in Paris Tuesday morning with Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein to review the Algiers meeting.

"The Lebanese delegates signed the peace plan which the Arab League is promoting but they have not been briefed by the Arab peace committee for more than two months now," he told Reuters.

The Algiers meeting urged support for Lebanese government efforts to extend its authority over the entire country and finalised a report which could include an emergency Arab summit.

Arab diplomatic analysts in Paris said Saudi Arabia would try to persuade Washington to give more active support to the Arab peace plan and Lebanon, which cedes more power to the country's Muslim majority.

In Lebanon meanwhile Christian radio stations suspended their newscasts Tuesday, protesting an implicit threat by maverick General Michel Aoun to close them down if they

continue to refer to President El-Hariri as head of state.

Voice of Lebanon, of the right-wing Farage Party, and Voice of the Lebanese, of the Lebanese Forces Party, broadcast a directive from Aoun saying the media should no longer refer to Hariri as president or Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss as head of government.

Aoun's directive said Hariri, 61, was merely a "former member of parliament" and recalled that the 54-year-old general declared the legislature dissolved Nov. 4 to prevent the election of a head of state.

The two stations then substituted their hourly newscasts with an announcement that they were "abstaining from reporting the news in a way is found to cope with the new directive."

Announcers on both stations indicated they viewed the directive as an attempt to gag the press and introduce censorship.

Baker to meet Egyptian, Israeli ministers in bid for dialogue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker is slowing his attempt to open Middle East peace talks by meeting this week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Abdul Meguid, accompanied by Osama Baz, a key adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, arrived first and probably will be driven Friday. Rabin was due around midnight from Los Angeles and will see Defence Secretary Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense Frank Chabot and Baker Thursday.

Baker, who is trying to arrange talks between Palestinians and Israel leading up to elections in the Israeli-occupied territories, has conducted most of his diplomacy on the telephone to Cairo and to Israel.

Egypt is acting as a go-between for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), which Israel refuses to accept as the representative of the Palestinians.

The stalemate over who is to represent the Palestinians has left Baker frustrated.

A date has yet to be set for a U.S.-sponsored meeting here be-

between Egypt, as a representative of the PLO and Israel.

Last month Egypt accepted with reservations Baker's invitation to participate in the three-way meeting. The reservations sought some PLO control over Palestinian participation further down the road. Israel accepted the invitation with the condition that the PLO be excluded from even an off-stage role.

There is no indication, however, that the Bush administration will try to exert pressure on Israel by threatening to reduce U.S. aid.

But the UDF has accused the government of trying to steal a march on the opposition parties by delaying their attempts to publicise their activities.

Several thousands demonstrate in front of police barricades

Kuwait raises option of consultative council

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The government has raised the option of a move towards democracy through Islamic-style consultation but short of reopening a parliament which has twice been dissolved by Kuwait's ruling family.

The state-run Kuwait Radio, in a commentary that is taken to reflect official thinking, said: "True democracy emanates from consultation which is purposeful dialogue, cooperation, understanding, wise decision and self denial."

"The democracy that we need in Kuwait is that type of democracy which ensures the collaboration of all parties and efforts to contain crises that may erupt... a democracy that closes ranks and consolidates national unity, the democracy of consultation as provided for in our Islamic religion."

The commentary was broadcast hours before several thousand Kuwaitis demonstrated in front of police barricades to press for the return of their country's dissolved parliament.

They had tried to reach the house of former Deputy Faisal Al Sanea for a scheduled rally, but police stretched barbed wire around several blocks to stop them.

The crowd, estimated by witnesses at three to four thousand, listened peacefully to speeches by deputies from the dissolved parliament before dispersing without incident.

Activists have been holding a series of weekly gatherings since early December to press for the return of the parliament, dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war.

The government has ruled the gatherings illegal and last week police used truncheons and stun grenades to break up a similar meeting at the home of former Deputy Ahmad Shairan.

Addressing Monday's meeting, former Speaker of Parliament Ahmad Al Saadoun said another rally would be held next Monday.

at the home of former Deputy Abbas Munawar.

Around 150 women dressed in traditional black robes stood at one side of the crowd to listen to the speeches.

Elite troops in riot gear deployed in the area shortly before the speeches began kept a low profile as they helped police man the barricades.

Parliament was dissolved in 1976 when government policies came under harsh criticism from lawmakers. It was restored in 1980.

The body was again dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Kuwait was threatened by Iran, when oil prices were collapsing and government policies again came under harsh fire by members of parliament.

The Kuwait Radio commentary was elaborating on statements by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah who, asked about the prospects of a return of parliament, told a press conference while visiting Egypt last week: "We in Kuwait believed and still believe in the feasibility of the peoples participation in supervision and legislation."

He said the country was seeking a formula that would avoid a third parliamentary crisis.

His remarks, coupled with a pledge to lift press censorship also enforced when parliament was dissolved in 1986, unleashed editorials clamoring for the return of democracy.

Earlier, Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah said that Kuwait was interested in democracy but was looking for a concept other than reconstituting parliament.

The commentary gave no details about an envisioned consultative body or whether it would be elected or appointed.

But the reference to consultation and Islam appeared to be reference to the so-called Shura (consultative council) which has

been prescribed by Islam as the model for ruling.

It is a system used in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, three of the countries which Kuwait is grouped with in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Other members are Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain, like Kuwait, had a parliament elected two years after it gained independence in 1971. But it was dissolved in 1975.

An ornate building has gone up in Riyadh to house a shura council but it has yet to be formed. In all these countries, the early Islamic practice of majlis prevails, allowing inhabitants to freely call on their rulers once a week to discuss anything they wish.

In Qatar, the UAE and Oman, members of the council, between 20 to 40 in number, are appointed.

Kuwait has a population of 1.7 million, 60 per cent of whom are expatriates, with the largest minorities being Palestinians, Egyptians and Iranians.

Among published commentaries of recent days, Ahmad Al Rabi, professor of Islamic philosophy at Kuwait University and former deputy, said in a front page article in the daily Al Watan: "The world around us is moving with a speed whereby we cannot slow down... the regional situation is a new one following the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war. The international situation is also a new one after a downfall of the theory of totalitarianism."

Ahmad Jarallah, editor-publisher of Al Seyassah, called editorially for learning a lesson from the Egyptian and Jordanian experience of "democratic openness and allowing all parties to say their opinion."

"There is no justification for fears of freedom of expression as long as there are laws which dignity of the people as is the case in advanced countries," Jarallah added.

Geagea has been quoted in local papers as supporting federalism for the past several weeks but Monday's speech was the most direct call.

"Federalism will defeat partition and domination. Federalism will win and so will Lebanon. It's the shortest road to regain Lebanon," Geagea said.

Muslim leaders have criticised calls for federalism as another



APPEAL FOR RELEASE: Young handicapped Lebanese in wheelchair, and crutches hand out leaflets in the southern part of city of Sidon calling for the release of two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped last year.

Geagea advocates federal system to settle civil strife

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the main rightist militia, has called for a federal system in Lebanon.

"Let's go for federalism," Geagea told a large audience of university students at a cinema hall in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district.

He said the only alternatives were partition or Syrian occupation. "Federalism is knocking on your doors so wash away the rotten (1943) political formula... and quickly open the doors for it," Geagea urged.

Geagea commands about 6,000 men. He shares power in the small Christian enclave north of Beirut with army commander Michel Aoun who has about 20,000 mostly Christian troops of Lebanon's army under his command.

Aoun heads a self-proclaimed government which claims to be the legitimate ruler of all Lebanon in competition with the government of President Elias Hrawi based in west Beirut. Hrawi, also a Christian, was elected by parliament but Aoun rejected the election saying it was held under Syrian pressure.

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form of partition.

But Geagea argued that partition, which he rejects, means two independent states while federalism is "unity with a specific method to distribute power that would make Lebanese communities united."

Army seeks barracks

The Lebanese army has started contacts with Hizbollah to recover barracks used by the pro-Iranian militants as their headquarters in eastern Lebanon, military sources said Tuesday.

They said negotiations were still in the early stages to persuade Hizbollah to give up the barracks in the ancient town of Baalbek, 65 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The sources said the army wanted to regain control of the barracks as part of a plan to regroup and reorganise troops loyal to Hrawi.

Media reports have speculated that several Western hostages, believed kidnapped by radicals affiliated with Hizbollah, were once detained at the barracks, Hizbollah's largest base in the Bekaa Valley.

French warplanes bombed the barracks in November 1983 to avenge a suicide attack on the headquarters of French paratroopers in Beirut one month earlier.

Hizbollah officials declined comment on contacts with the army.

Greek evacuation

Diplomats of the Greek embassy, the only Western mission holding out in west Beirut, has

quietly fled to the Christian enclave north of the capital, security sources said Tuesday.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the move was carried out "quietly over the past two weeks" after the embassy received threats from a powerful Shi'ite Muslim clan in the eastern Bekaa Valley, one of whose members is held in Greece on drug trafficking charges.

The source said the four Greek diplomats also evacuated their residences in west Beirut and moved to the port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

"The last Greek diplomat left west Beirut early today after they moved all their furniture and files," the source added.

"The Shi'ite clan had telephoned the embassy several times threatening to attack the offices, as well as Greek diplomats if the member of the clan was not released from jail in Greece," the source added. He refused to identify the Shi'ite clan by name.

All other Western diplomatic missions evacuated west Beirut during spates of terrorist attacks, including the abduction of foreigners between 1983 and 1986.

The Greek consular section, manned only by Lebanese employees, maintained services in the 12-storey building that also housed the embassy's closed offices in the Ras Beirut district.

"We send all visa applications to Jounieh to be sorted out and approved by Greek officials," said a Lebanese employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He refused to disclose the embassy's new address or telephone numbers.

Syria protests Euphrates cut

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria has joined Iraq in expressing strong concern to neighbouring Turkey over its diversion of the mighty Euphrates River, condemning it as a breach of international law.

An authoritative source said Turkish Ambassador Erhan Tuncel was called to the Foreign Ministry Monday evening to receive Syria's protest over the diversion of the Euphrates to fill Turkey's new Ataturk Dam.

The source said Tuncel was told that Syria "rejected the principle of cutting the Euphrates River flow and considered it against international law."

The diversion of the waters that began Saturday constituted an "unjustified move which would seriously affect (Syria's) drinking water supplies and electricity generation," the source said.

Iraq, which also depends on Euphrates water for irrigation and hydroelectric power, sent Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi to Ankara to express Baghdad's concern.

Iraq said Sunday it was seeking changes in Turkey's diversion plan to reduce the damaging results for millions of its people.

But Chalabi said after meeting Turkish President Turgut Ozal Monday that he had received assurances Turkey would give due consideration to the supply of water to neighbouring states.

Syrian officials stressed that Damascus felt Turkey's "constituted an unjustified move which would cause... harm to the environment of the region."

Industry sources said Syria's huge hydroelectric stations at the Euphrates in northern Syria and the hundreds of hectares of cultivated land would be seriously affected by water supply.

Syria had kept silent about the Ataturk Dam since it first announced two months ago that it would divert the flow of the Euphrates to fill the Ataturk Dam situated 10 kilometres upstream from the Syrian frontier would cause harm to Syria and Iraq.

Before the waters were diverted to fill the Ataturk Dam, the ninth largest in the world, Turkey said it boosted the flow of water to Syria and Iraq.

Ankara also promised to increase the flow of water in Syria and Iraq from downstream tributaries during the 30-day dam filling process.

The Ataturk Dam is the centerpiece of an \$11-billion project to irrigate land in southeastern Turkey and to supply by the year 2001 a fifth of the country's electricity.

The 2,330-kilometre Euphrates River originates in eastern Turkey and flows through Syria and Iraq before joining the Tigris river and running into the Gulf.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Dole says cut aid to Mideast

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Senator Bob Dole says the United States should cut foreign aid to Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan by five per cent and give the money to new democracies in Poland, Hungary, Panama and other countries. Dole, a Kansas Republican who is the Senate minority leader, made the suggestion in an opinion piece published in Tuesday's editions of the New York Times. The five countries he named as targets for reductions receive more than two-thirds of U.S. foreign assistance. "Does it make sense, at this historic moment, to provide these countries practically all of our aid at the cost of foreclosing dramatically promising new aid initiatives in Eastern Europe or other important countries?" Dole wrote. "What about, for example, those Latin American nations in the front lines in the war against drugs?" A five per cent cut in aid to Israel, Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan would free about \$350 million, Dole said. The United States plans to spend \$14.5 billion on foreign aid this year. Of that, Israel is allocated \$3 billion and Egypt is to receive \$2 billion.

South, North Yemen cabinets to meet

ABU DHABI (R) — South and North Yemen will hold their first joint cabinet meeting Saturday in Sana'a to discuss the planned merger of their countries, a North Yemeni minister said in remarks published Tuesday. "The meeting will focus on working out adequate structures for ministries in the two sectors and will yield an agreement to unify them," the Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper quoted North Yemen's Information Minister Hassan Al Lauzi as saying. North and South Yemen signed a unification accord last December.

Siad Barre sacks 3 more top officials

MOGADISHU (R) — President Mohammad Siad Barre, who sacked his entire cabinet a week ago, has dismissed the mayor of Mogadishu and the heads of Somalia's two main banks. A statement by the presidency Monday night said Said Omar Afridi would replace Ali Ugas Abdulle as the capital's mayor. It also announced the replacement of the presidents of the state-run commercial and savings bank and Somali Development Bank. No reasons were given for the changes, but they are widely seen as part of Siad Barre's moves to form a government of national reconciliation.

Ozal to urge Bush to block resolution

ANKARA (AP) — President Turgut Ozal will ask U.S. President George Bush in a meeting this week to do his best to block adoption of an "Armenian genocide" resolution by the Senate-presidential palace officials said. The officials, who requested anonymity, also said they expected Bush to raise the Cyprus issue, asking Turkey to persuade the Turkish Cypriots to respond positively to U.N. sponsored efforts for a solution. Ozal flew to the United States Tuesday for a 10-day private visit and will meet with Bush at a White House luncheon Thursday.

Syrian president receives U.S. Senator

DAMASCUS (AP) — U.S. Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania met Monday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. The agency said the talks covered "current developments in the Middle East."

Syria denies Soviet Union is recalling some of its advisors

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria Tuesday said all reports about withdrawal of Soviet military advisors from Syria are untrue.

An informed Syrian source had said Monday, on condition of anonymity, that the withdrawal of a number of Soviet military advisors was agreed on during a visit by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas to Moscow last month.

Responding, Information Minister Mohammad Salman said: "Some news agencies have circulated information concerned with the Soviet experts in Syria. All the talk about this subject is absolutely untrue."

The Syrian source had said Tlas negotiated the issue with members of the Soviet Union's Supreme Military Council. But the source denied press reports in Israel that the withdrawal of Soviet personnel was in the thousands.

He declined to comment on a report in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Ra'i Al Aam that the number of Soviet military advisors had already dropped from 2,000 to just over 1,000.

The 1989-90 Military Balance, an annual survey of global military strengths published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, puts the number of Soviet military



Hafez Al Assad personnel in Syria last year at 2,000.

President Hafez Al Assad has often stated his belief that to achieve a just peace in the Middle East, Syria must achieve military equality with Israel so that it can negotiate from a position of strength.

The Soviets have supplied Syria with combat jets, tanks and a missile capability which includes a powerful air defence network and 18 surface-to-surface SS-21 missiles capable of reaching any Israeli city.

Last November, the Washington Post quoted the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Alexander Zotov, as saying that the Soviet Union was trying to persuade Syria to abandon its quest for strategic military parity with Israel.

Zotov was quoted as saying the "new realities" in the Soviet Union meant Moscow would consider "the limits of our capabilities" in meeting Syria's future military needs.

He was taken to be referring to Mikhail Gorbachev's change of emphasis to concentrate on solving his country's internal problems.

After publication of the report, Zotov gave a news conference saying Syria has the right to obtain whatever weapons it feels it needs. He denied that the Soviet Union was putting pressure on Damascus.

Syrian officials and Zotov were quoted as saying relations between Syria and the Soviet Union, its main arms supplier, remained excellent.

Syria reportedly owes the Soviets \$15 billion for military weapons.

At his news conference, Zotov said the Syrians had 15 years in which to repay its debt and that it could be satisfied partially by delivery of goods rather than in hard currency.

U.S. said to urge Israel to end military assistance to Ethiopia

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has urged Israel to refrain from giving military aid to the embattled Ethiopian government of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Israeli foreign ministry sources said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the ministry denied Israel was sending arms or military advisers to Addis Ababa but declined comment on reports that a high-level Israeli military delegation recently visited Ethiopia.

"The Americans have made clear to us they are very interested in ensuring there is no support for the Mengistu regime," one Israeli official told Reuters.

The daily newspaper Al Hamishmar said Monday that senior Israeli army officers headed by a major-general visited Ethiopia recently to study reports from the Soviet-backed government for military assistance.

Such reports are usually suppressed by military censorship.

Al Hamishmar said the Israeli delegation recommended aid be delayed because Addis Ababa could fall following advances by rebels towards the capital.

The British newspaper the Independent reported that Israel had tried to sell 15 of its Kfir fighter-bombers to Ethiopia but Washington blocked the deal by barring the sale of weapons systems with U.S.-made components.

There have been repeated foreign reports that Israel was sending arms and advisers to Ethiopian government forces since Addis Ababa last November restored diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. Ties were severed during the 1973 war.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone Monday that two vessels had discharged arms from Israel at the Red Sea port of Asab two weeks ago.

Many of the foreign reports have speculated that Israel had agreed to exchange military assistance in return for Mengistu's willingness to let the remaining Ethiopian Jews emigrate to the Jewish state.

Israel brought nearly 15,000 of the so-called Falashas here in a clandestine airlift codenamed "Operation Moses" in 1984-85. About 10,000 are believed to be still in the country.

Israel and Addis Ababa enjoyed warm relations until shortly before a military coup ousted pro-Western Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

Ethiopia, which controls the strategically important entrance to the Red Sea, was one of a group of non-Arab states, including Turkey and Iran, on which Israel built an informal strategic alliance in the 1950s and 1960s.

Israeli diplomats said there was no doubt the Jewish state would be keen to revive such ties.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7711-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
16:45	Children's programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:30	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	Arabic programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:30	Play "Petro"
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Baby Boom
21:10	Nature World
22:00	News in English
22:30	Final Days
PRAYER TIMES	
06:11	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:45	Dhuhr
14:35	'Asr
16:59	Maghrib
18:20	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Tarmada Church Tel. 623346	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 623543	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 511285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy at times with expected scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly	

cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.	
Amman	
Min./Max. temp.	4/14
Amman	10/19
Amman	3/15
Jordan Valley	9/17
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Walid Sahawneh	779977
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi	646024
Dr. Walid Al Mami	675485
Dr. Adnan Al Dhi	825660
Pharmacy pharmacy	78336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Harvath pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	646445
Shamsat pharmacy	637620
JERUSALEM:	
Dr. Nabil Alal Ota	(62)200
Al Shura pharmacy	(62)200

ZARQA:	
Dr. Mufeed Daura	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	
Civil Defence Emergency	661111
Rescue	630441
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	621111, 637777
Police	621111
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	630300
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	621111
Amman Municipality	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
Directorate assistance	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdullah Telephone	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	636381
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	06-3260

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	6442816
Al-Jalal Maternity, J. Amn.	6444112
Al-Jalal Maternity	6442862
Malhe, J. Amn.	636140
Palatine, Shamsat	6611714
Shamsat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	6672279
Al-Musader Hospital	843945
Al-Musader Hospital	7711013
The Islamic, Abdali	6661270
Al-Abdi, Abdali	6641646
Eastern	636140
Al-Bashir, J. Arafatsh	7751116
Army, Marfa	8911115
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050
Al-Jalal Hospital	674135

ZARQA:

Gaza Gov't. Hospital	(09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Dr. ... Hospital	(09)963323

IRBID:

Princess Beama Hospital	(02)725525
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)727275
Al-Nai'efee Hospital	(02)747100

AMMAN:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314131
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TREE PLANTING: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia participated in tree planting ceremonies in Swaidah organized by Amman's Education Department to mark Arbor Day (see photo). In Amman, officials and citizens participated together in planting forest and fruit trees in various parts of the governorate. Zarga governorate decided to celebrate the occasion on Jan. 25.

Association urges ministry to help find work for geologists

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Geologists Association (JGA) urged the Ministry of Labour to try to find work for unemployed geologists through contacts with other Arab countries, the association's president, George Haddadin, said Tuesday.

The JGA also expressed hope that the Ministry of Labour would approach local private businesses dealing with stone and lime quarries and similar industries to employ Jordanian geologists in their operations. Haddadin said after a meeting with Minister of Labour Osama Obeidat, with whom he discussed this question and general affairs of concern to the association.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the residence of Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb to convey condolences on the death of his brother Moussa Abu Taleb (Petra).

ABC PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT: Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Executive President Abdullah Sandi wound up a visit to Jordan Tuesday and left for Bahrain. During the visit to Jordan, Sandi paved the ground for the opening of an ABC bank with a JD 10 million capital (J.T.).

EUPHRATES EXPLANATION: Two senior officials from Turkey are currently visiting Amman to clarify and explain the decision to cut the waters of the Euphrates from Jan. 13, 1990 for a period of one month to fill the now completed Ataturk Dam in Turkey. The two officials are the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Economic Relations with the Middle East countries, Necati Vitan, and the assistant director general of Turkish State Hydraulic Works, Ozden Bilen (J.T.).

SUPPLY DIRECTORS MEET: Directors of the supply departments in Jordan held a meeting Tuesday at the Ministry of Supply. Participants in the meeting discussed the situation of essential supplies in the Kingdom and administrative matters. Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the ministry's interest in satisfying the citizen's needs and called the group to do their best in providing supplies in reasonable prices (Petra).

NEW BOOK: "Jerusalem in History," a new book written by nine scholars and edited by Dr. Kamil Asadi, has been recently published in England. The book traces the history of the city for the last 5,000 years. Scholars from the U.S., Canada, Britain, Holland, Germany, Iraq and Jordan wrote different chapters of the book. According to historian Albert Hourani: "This is a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the history of Jerusalem based on a wide variety of sources. The chapters summarise the present state of scholarship, and some at least of them break new ground." (J.T.).

HAMDAN HONOURED: Yarmouk University held a ceremony Tuesday to honour Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, the university's former president who was appointed minister of education and higher education in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Hamdan was presented with the university's shield by his successor to the post Dr. Ali Mahafza (Petra).

MINISTRY GIVES BOOKS TO SWEDEN: Ministry of Culture presented a collection of 54 books as well as children's magazines published in Jordan to the Swedish embassy in Amman. A ministry spokesman said that the gift was aimed at encouraging exchange of books and other publications with other countries (Petra).

MEDICINE CONSIGNMENT: A Syrian team was expected in Amman Tuesday to negotiate the purchase of a consignment of Jordanian medicine, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The paper said in the past year Jordan sold \$60 million worth of pharmaceutical products to Syria. It said that Syria was paying by barter, supplying Jordan with cereals and cooking oil.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Programmes to be carried out by the Ministry of Social Development and its affiliated centres during 1990 were reviewed at a meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shreideh. Matters related to training of ministry officials were also reviewed at the meeting (Petra).

HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION: A four-day exhibition of handicrafts was opened at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Monday. On display are samples of artificial flowers, dresses, and ceramics by female trainees at the Vocational Training Corporation's centres.

STANDARD OF DOCTORS: The Continued Medical Education Committee at the Karak Health Department has prepared a plan designed to promote the standard of doctors working at medical centres in the governorate by attending lectures during the next two months. This plan is also intended to introduce doctors to means to tackle various cases, to introduce them to achievements in medicine and to promote cooperation among various sectors working in this field (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition entitled "They chose 36 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

* A lecture, in French, on Andre Malraux by Noel Favreliere to mark General de Gaulle's centennial birthday anniversary at the French Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

Sayeh urges UNRWA to maintain all services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A reported decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to Palestinian refugees drew a strong reaction from Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Tuesday. He urged Arab and Muslim countries to take action and prevent such measures.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Sayeh expressed his solidarity with the representatives of the Palestinian people residing in Jordan and voiced his deep regret over UNRWA's attempt to reduce services to the refugees, which, he said, could be a first step towards ending services altogether.

Sayeh made the statement after the representatives of refugees in Jordan sent a memorandum to the UNRWA commissioner general in Vienna protesting against the agency's intended action.

"I do hope that the news about UNRWA's intentions is not true because any reduction will have serious consequences on the allowances given to infants and pregnant women who need food supplies most," Sayeh said.

He appealed to the world com-



Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh

munity to shoulder its responsibility since, he said, it is the international community that contributed to the creation of the problem because it had been condoning Israel's illegal practices designed to prevent any peace settlement in the Middle East.

Sayeh appealed to various Arab and Islamic countries to intervene with UNRWA and stop the intended measures, which he described as detrimental to the refugees' interests.

The protest against UNRWA's measures coincided with the opening in Tunis of a six-day meeting to discuss UNRWA's operations, developments in the Palestine conflict, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

Contributions by various nations to UNRWA will be discussed in detail.

The United States cut its contribution from \$67 million in 1988 to \$61 million in 1989 and \$50 million this year, citing the need to resettle refugees elsewhere in the world.

UNRWA has been in the practice of launching world-wide campaigns on an annual basis to raise sufficient funds to finance its operations.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily quoted UNRWA officials Tuesday as saying that there were no plans to reduce any services to the refugees in Jordan. The paper quoted officials as saying that it only plans to incorporate some of the difficulties the agency was facing at this time in view of dwindling resources.

Cairo invites House to send a delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Egypt has extended an invitation to the Lower House of Parliament to send a delegation to Egypt for talks on parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Egypt.

The invitation was conveyed to House Speaker Suleiman Arar at a meeting in his office with Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Mahab Mubel who said that the visit would further boost bilateral cooperation.

Mubel said the invitation was extended to Arar to visit Cairo at the head of a delegation from his Egyptian counterpart Rifaat Majoub.

The Financial Committee of the Upper House of Parliament convened Tuesday and approved three draft laws on the Amman Financial Market.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily reported in its evening issue that several economists including Sami Qammo, former director of the General Budget Department, took part in the committee's session.

Qammo said that there was urgent need to reexamine the government's 1990 public expenditure allocations and the cost of services to be offered by the central government to municipa-

lities.

Qammo said that between 1980 and 1989 Jordan spent a total of JD 8.16 billion as follows:

Current and recurrent expenditure — JD 3.06 billion; Armed Forces — JD 1.77 billion; capital expenditure JD 3 billion.

These, he said, were covered by local revenues of JD 4.28 billion, internal and external loans of JD 1.59 billion, and financial aid of JD 1.79 billion.

Qammo also said that during this period a total of JD 0.505 billion were drawn from the reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

West German media urged to be accurate, balanced on Arab issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — A round-table conference of Arab news agencies and the information media of West Germany held its second session Tuesday with the main focus on the media coverage of Arab developments in West Germany.

A working paper presented by the chief editor of Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mohammad Habib, said that the Egyptian media give more than average Arab media coverage for external news, particularly in newspapers and magazines.

The Egyptian press, he said, regularly carries features and commentaries on foreign affairs on all levels, and cited West German issues as an example.

Media links between Germany and the Arab World were initiated in 1938 in line with developing relations between the two sides, he said.

Samira Ajeli from the Libyan JANA news agency presented a working paper on the coverage of

Arab issues and developments in the West German media and asserted that Western European media in general tend to highlight negative aspects of the Arab World and lack credibility.

The representative of the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) urged the West German media to provide accurate and balanced coverage of Arab developments and cited as an example the ongoing controversy over Turkey's one-month cut-off of Euphrates River flow to Syria.

GUVS is involved in a number of projects to help such voluntary societies but, "the project that achieved the most is the lottery. It is our main source of income and both the buyers and beneficiaries benefit," Khatib says.

He stressed that the role of GUVS is that of a planner, coordinator, manager, trainer and researcher. Since its establishment in 1958, GUVS has incorporated representatives of voluntary societies spread through the Kingdom. "Now, we have 626 voluntary societies within GUVS covering a large number of the needs to the local community," Khatib said.

In 1989, through the many projects GUVS involved itself, one quarter of a million people in Jordan were benefitted in one way or another, according to Khatib.

Although the number of beneficiaries is large, the number of the needy, poor and unfortunate are even larger. Khatib agrees that "we are doing very well through our projects, but, looking at the amount of people in need of GUVS, we cannot help but feel helpless."

But, Khatib says, the year 1990 will witness the establishment of the first phase of a cancer centre at the University of Jordan. It includes radiotherapy facilities and an outpatient clinic. The centre will cost about JD 2.7 million in addition to another \$6 million for equipment. "The problem of cancer has become a major worldwide issue and is desperately needed in our country due to a wide prevalence of the disease," Khatib said.

Currently under develop-

Royal decree approves martial law amendments

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving amendments to the martial law regulations for 1990. The amendments cancel the jurisdiction of military courts on issues related to crimes, possession of firearms, communism, counterfeit currency, murder and violation of the defence law and firing arms in weddings.

The Council of Ministers last month announced the amend-

ment in response to requests by Lower House of Parliament members calling for cancellation of martial law altogether.

Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday approved of a land transport agreement between Jordan and Iraq. The agreement, which provides for facilities for transport of goods and passengers, aims at further developing bilateral cooperation in land transport fields.

Jewish immigration to Palestine rings alarms

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Parliament should spearhead efforts worldwide to stem the flow of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to occupied Palestinian land; and can dispatch envoys and delegations to the Eastern bloc to support the Arab cause, former foreign minister and Lower House of Parliament member Taber Al Masri said Tuesday.

"The continued migration of Jews to Israel constitutes a grave danger to the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular and therefore Arab governments must join hands and do all they can to contain such migration," Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The new regimes in Eastern Europe will no doubt listen to the Arab and Jordanian envoys, but a concerted effort is needed by all concerned parties if the Arab bid is to achieve success at the official level," Masri added.

Masri, who chairs the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said that "confronting the emigration danger is the Arab Nation's responsibility since an increase in the manpower in Israel will increase its temptation to launch further acts of aggression on the Arab countries to settle the new-

comers."

Masri said the Arab countries should also work on two other fronts: Provide material and moral support for the Palestinian intifada and exercise pressure on the United States to change its position on the conflict.

According to Gbazi Al Saadi, a Jordanian journalist and a specialist in Israeli affairs, the direct air route between Moscow and Israel, which was recently inaugurated, is bound to increase the number of Jewish immigrants.

Saadi said that between 1971 and 1985, 159,904 Jews came to Israel from the Soviet Union. In 1989 alone, a total of 71,196 Jews arrived to settle in the occupied Arab lands from the Soviet Union, up from a mere 18,965 in 1988, he added.

He said a total of 500 Jews came during November 1989 alone, and 100 others came on the first direct flight which launched the new Moscow-Tel Aviv route.

Commenting on the situation, Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh said that the arrival of thousands of Jewish immigrants will increase the sufferings of the Palestinian people because Israel will absorb the newcomers at their expense.

Switzerland raises aid to university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Switzerland has decided to raise its contribution to the Centre for Phonetics Research at the University of Jordan from 300,000 Swiss francs to 500,000 francs, according to Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Dino Scollari.

He made the announcement during a visit to the University of Jordan where he inspected the centre's facilities and met with officials including university President Mahmoud Al Samra.

Samra expressed Jordan's appreciation for the assistance, which, he said, would boost the centre's services to the Jordanian and Arab public.

The centre was opened at the

University of Jordan in January 1988 to help teach Arabic to Jordanian children and to non-native speakers, and to help rehabilitate people with speech problems.

Switzerland is supplying the equipment and has also sent a team of specialists to help instruct local staff on the centre's management and services.

Equipment installed at the centre included a computer to help carry out sound analysis and a laryngograph which helps to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, study psycho-linguistics and the effect of communication disorders on children's speech.

Jordan's welfare lottery — quick money for some but aids a cause

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thousands of people throughout Jordan eagerly rush to buy the fortnightly lottery tickets hoping that by some thread of luck, they will win the first prize — or any prize for that matter. Every third and eighteenth of the month, they hopefully flip through the newspapers first thing in the morning to either settle for what was expected or to find themselves lucky. And the cycle goes on.

This trend began in 1973 under the umbrella of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS). For a modest sum of 250 fils one could

buy a lottery ticket while the first prize what was then a handsome sum of JD 2,500.

Abdallah Khatib, director of GUVS, explains that when the project began an agent was contracted to sell the tickets at a certain place. But it was soon discovered that there was a need for a different approach to sell more tickets and therefore to gain more income. Thus an "open system" was devised whereby anyone could do the selling.

"In 1973, we used to sell 30,000 tickets each draw (every two weeks). We are now able to sell 80,000 tickets, with about 600 people selling them," Khatib told the Jordan Times.

The price of a ticket has increased to JD 2. So has the first prize, to JD 25,000. At the year's end, GUVS gives the lucky one JD 60,000.

According to Khatib, the total intake of the lottery was JD 1.7 million. Forty per cent of the amount was given away in prizes and 20 per cent was given as commission to agents.

GUVS allocated the remaining 40 per cent to miscellaneous voluntary societies in both the East and West Banks. This includes rehabilitation centres, medical centres as well as child care centres. In addition, GUVS also provides for social development centres, libraries and adoption centres and for furnishing kindergartens.

GUVS is involved in a number of projects to help such voluntary societies but, "the project that achieved the most is the lottery. It is our main source of income and both the buyers and beneficiaries benefit," Khatib says.

He stressed that the role of GUVS is that of a planner, coordinator, manager, trainer and researcher. Since its establishment in 1958, GUVS has incorporated representatives of voluntary societies spread through the Kingdom. "Now, we have 626 voluntary societies within GUVS covering a large number of the needs to the local community," Khatib said.

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Currently under develop-



Selling lottery tickets offers means of livelihood for young and old people (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

ment are 10 centres for the mentally retarded throughout Jordan so that people living in remote areas would also benefit. Khatib says that GUVS is also helping develop income-generating projects for local communities.

A study will be taking place aiming to provide the handicapped persons with about 500 jobs. Khatib said small shops were being built by the government, "thus granting the handicapped a chance to contribute to society."

GUVS has come a long way since it was first established and now caters its services to a wide variety of helpless people, ranging from the smallest child to the senior citizens of Jordan. Looking into GUVS future, Khatib is optimistic that the number of beneficiaries will increase.

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Difficult time for Gorbachev

AT the end of his recent visit to Lithuania, Mikhail Gorbachev said the most stupendous and daring thing yet in his career when he declared that he was willing to entertain multi-party system of government for the Soviet Union. The Soviet leader might have said these words in desperation after having failed to convince the Lithuanian leaders to go back on their decision to break away from Moscow. This is not to mention that the Soviet president is beleaguered by many challenges and dangers the least of which are not only the widening turbulences in the south and west of the country. The big question remains whether Gorbachev can salvage the situation for himself and his perestroika and glasnost after all the bold concessions that he has been making within and outside his country. Having the Pandora box opened and the genie out of the jar, the Soviet leader seems to have reached the point of no return. What is even more ominous is the fact that the events unfolding in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe have strained his capacity to cope with them.

Now there is a growing fear that the very survival of Gorbachev is at stake. What dangers to his own career loom in the horizon or worse still in the dark is something that the international community must be most concerned about. And what words of advice can all governments truly concerned about the continuing success of Gorbachev's imaginative reforms offer to Moscow at this very critical juncture must be uppermost on the minds of leaders everywhere.

To be sure one hopes that the Soviet leader perseveres with his new ideas. The fact that he is beginning to reflect on introducing pluralism to the Soviet system of government is most encouraging. But will he be able to continue this road of openness and still deal effectively and realistically with the mounting wave of nationalism in and around the southern and western parts of the Soviet Union is something else. Will Moscow ever go to the extent of viewing its long range interest as being better served without maintaining a mosaic country composed of so many nationalities that have very little in common? These are very difficult questions and the answers to them are even harder. Nevertheless it would be presumptuous on the part of the concerned international community to preempt the thinking of Moscow on how best to deal with the new situation in the Soviet Union. And as long as the Soviet Union has chosen the democratic way to address its contemporary conflicts and challenges, there will always be hope that the answers to all such issues could be just around the corner.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday commended the leadership of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan which have worked hard over the past year to implement the principles and goals of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) created last February in Baghdad. The paper said the leadership succeeded in the first year of the ACC life to carry out considerable work, leading towards integration among their countries through meetings held at the ministerial and committee levels. The paper referred to the higher ministerial committee meeting grouping the heads of government which is being convened now in Baghdad, and said that it will review past year's work within the ACC group and pave the way for an ACC summit in Amman next month. The various agreements and discussions that aimed to boosting cooperation among the four countries and the different plans for future action are expected to be summed up at the Baghdad meeting which will be considered as a session for evaluation and assessment of the past year's achievements. The paper paid tribute to the leaders of the four ACC nations for creating the very positive atmosphere that enabled the ACC's various agencies to forge ahead with fruitful work and attain success.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday criticises political factions in Lebanon which, he says, continue to place obstacles in the path of implementing the Arab League mediation mission and the Taef Resolutions passed by the Lebanese parliament. Abdel Rahman Omari draws attention to the fact that Michel Aoun and his group are living in the past in the period of the Phoenicians and totally disregarding the developments around Lebanon and ignoring the Arab World in which Lebanon is situated. He says that as the three-member Arab League mediation committee Tuesday resumes its mission to bring peace to the embattled nation, Aoun and his group continue to oppose the unanimous agreement of the Lebanese parliament and the will of the Arab Nation. What is more, Israel continues to occupy parts of southern Lebanon and to cause tension and conflicts within Lebanon itself, the writer notes. He says that like Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon being country bordering on Israel, it has been affected by the Zionist aggression, but due to the lack of cohesion among its various groups, if faced a civil war and continues to face a gloomy future due to the obstinacy of extremist factional leaders.

Al Dastour daily commented Tuesday on Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories, and said that the Israeli leaders faced with the influx of great numbers of Jews are now planning to expand their aggression and occupation plans in the Arab region. The paper said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been lately talking about creating a greater Israel to absorb the immigrants from the Soviet Union, and about holding to the occupied Arab lands where the first newcomers will be settled. This fact, the paper said, should open the eyes of the Arab leaders who should take note of this looming danger and plan a counter-action. The nearly one million new immigrants could prompt Israel to make out of them a nucleus for a new wave of expansion and a new aggression on the Arabs, said the paper. The Arab leaders, the paper continued, should now approach the Soviet Union and draw its attention to the negative consequences of the such migration which can never help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel's strategic value: will it lessen with Soviet-U.S. thaw?

By Nicholas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — As Soviet-American tensions ease, Israel's value as a strategic ally is being questioned, and Israeli officials are concerned this could lead to cuts in military aid.

Mark Heller, a senior analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the Soviets were likely to be less supportive of radical Arab governments and no longer viewed as a source of instability.

"As the perceived Soviet threat to the Middle East declines, so may the strategic value of Israel in the eyes of American policymakers," he said.

A major argument in providing Israel with \$1.6 billion a year in military aid has been its value as a strategic ally, one that could preposition equipment, supply the U.S. Sixth Fleet and be counted on in a showdown.

"There is no longer a common adversary," said Heller, suggesting aid cuts could ultimately result.

More conservative analysts dis-

agree. They suggest Israel could become an even greater asset if the United States is forced to close down bases in Europe but wants to retain the ability to defend its interests against governments like Libya and the Islamic republic in Iran.

"Expansionist powers in the region could threaten the free flow of oil and maritime trade routes. These are constant American interests that will have to be defended even if no Soviet threat is perceived," said Dore Gold, also of the Jaffee Centre.

One sign of continuing U.S. reliance came last week when U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz expressed interest in having access to bases in Israel, according to sources who demanded they not be identified.

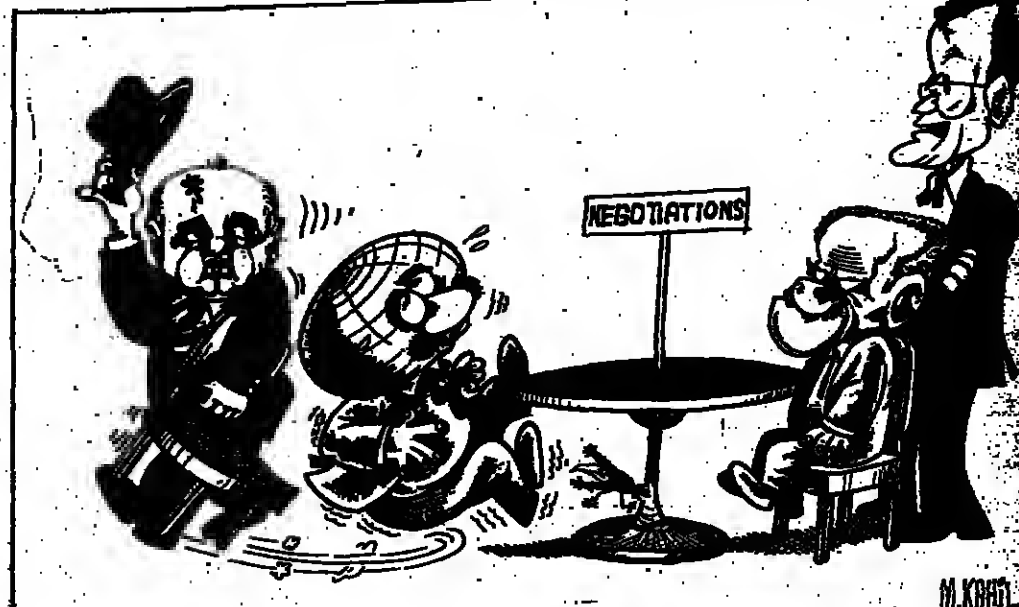
Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is in Washington this week for talks with U.S. officials on future military aid, said one basic element has changed. He said the superpowers no longer fear a Middle East war would grow into a U.S.-Soviet confrontation as happened during

the 1973 Mideast war. The Soviet Union, the main military supplier to Arab states, threatened to introduce troops to bolster the Arab side during the 1973 war, and then U.S. President Richard Nixon put American troops on nuclear alert.

"In the past, many books were written that tried to describe the Middle East as the focal point from which the third world war would start. This fear is over," Rabin said in a recent speech to a conference of visiting Jewish journalists.

Less worried about a confrontation and tied up with their own arms negotiations, Rabin said the Soviets and Americans were not as eager to tackle intractable regional conflicts like the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Whether one or the other of the superpowers will realize that the gap between the positions of the two sides is too wide, they tell the two parties 'go to hell. You want to quarrel. You want to use violence. Do it until one of you, or both of you, will become tired.'"



Rabin has reportedly set up a task force to study the impact of U.S. defence cuts on Israel.

An aide to Finance Minister Shimon Peres said in the past two years the real value of aid to Israel declined about 5 per cent because of inflation.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he suggested the thaw in cold war attitudes may be a

factor in Washington's decision not to compensate Israel for the loss.

"I will not tell you I don't foresee any new thinking in the United States," said the official, who argued that Israel could avoid any threatened aid cuts by moving quickly to get involved in the peace process.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson of California, the senior Republican on

the Senate Armed Forces committee, told reporters during a visit here last week that Israel remained a strategic ally and aid should not be cut because of "premature euphoria" over changes in the Soviet bloc.

"I think there are a number of people who are eagerly anticipating a peace dividend that may not be as large as they think," he said.

In troubled East Europe, Czechoslovakia remains optimistic

By Susan Greenberg
Reuters

PRAGUE — "I keep thinking I'll wake up and it will all be a dream. I walk past the posters of Havel and ask my daughter to pinch my arm, to tell me it's true."

Comments such as this one from Yankulka, a teacher, are common in Prague. But of all the East bloc countries caught up in the whirl of radical change, Czechoslovakia appears to show the most confidence.

Romania is reeling from a wave of violence, East Germany worries that real change will still be snatched away and Poland and Hungary face deep economic crisis.

But the very caution which helped keep Czechoslovakia one of the most conservative Communist states in the East bloc now stands it in good stead as a basis for solid change. People are aware of the problems ahead but

their traditional pessimism has given way to real hope.

There are several factors behind this. There is a strong feeling of pride that people found their own strength and brought about real changes at the top, not just "the same people saying different things."

In Václav Havel, the leading ex-dissident and playwright, the country has a unique national figurehead in the tradition of the republic's founding father, Tomas Masaryk.

His election on December 29 represented a reversal of fortunes, with the ex-prisoner replacing his jailer. He is also someone whom people trust as uninterested in personal gain or power. Havel has said he wants to quit after elections planned for June, but his supporters may not let him.

The powerful Civic Forum opposition movement, which led the fight to topple the Communist party from power in November

and December, is a focus for the country's non-partisan impulse.

This impulse is reflected by the lack of vindictiveness being shown towards former Communist leaders and the concern for legality among those pursuing their past crimes, such as chief prosecutor Pavel Sitar.

Visitors have noticed the mood of positive calm. A visiting U.S. congressman, Tom Lantos, told journalists last week: "I am impressed with the quality of the people... their attitude is going to help bring the country back."

There are, of course, real problems.

"The new government is going to have to take some unpopular decisions which may lead to unemployment and rising prices," said a Western diplomat. "People have had a lot of social guarantees and may not be willing to give them all up for the risks of the free market."

The controversy over a possible apology to the Sudeten Ger-

mans expelled after World War II also points to problems of facing up to the past.

"If we can't face responsibility for that, we won't be able to face responsibility for our complicity in the last 40 years," said one Czechoslovak.

Civic Forum is powerful but is still unsure how to proceed as a "non-party party." Young people were attracted to the unity of a fight against the Communists but the present idealism will eventually have to give way to normal politics.

National differences loom, with organisations deciding whether to form or reform as federal groups or split up into Czech and Slovak parts. Leading politicians such as Christian ex-dissident Jan Carnogursky, for example, will have to decide whether to be regional or national figures.

There are two Czechs in the population for every Slovak, and as another diplomat noted: "The

equal representation of Slovakia in the national federation could be a real pitfall if it is not well-handled." Havel showed in his trip to the Slovak capital Bratislava on Jan. 11 that he is well aware of this.

There is also a possible city-country divide. "In the countryside, a lot of local party bosses still think they are very important," one Western diplomat commented.

There are signs that some country people are frightened by recent events. "Why are you people in Prague changing everything?" one villager complained to a Prague woman.

Havel himself has paid tribute to the "enormous human, moral and spiritual potential" in his countrymen "that slumbered under the enforced mask of apathy." But, he added, "our main enemies today are our own bad traits (such as) indifference to the common good."

There are still plenty of exam-

ples of this indifference, which most people recognise and see as something that will take years to lose. And there are plenty of corrupted people still around running things the way they need to, and security men still making trouble for people they don't like.

On the radio and television, the story of the revolution is told over and over again to reassure people that their world really did turn upside-down after the first big pro-democracy demonstration on November 17.

On a sad note that reminds one of the country's past, one man explained why even the most pessimistic person must remain positive.

"I simply couldn't live through another '68," he said, referring to the hopes for democracy briefly raised by the "Prague Spring" under Alexander Dubcek, only to be crushed by a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion later that year. "If we lost it all again I would commit suicide."

Revolution exposes excesses of communist elite

By Nicholas Pylthian

VIENNA — East Europeans, unaccustomed to reading about the private lives of their leaders, have been treated to titillating revelations about the peccadilloes and worse of the former Communist elite.

Newspapers more used to massaging the egos of political leaders are reveling in a new found freedom since the popular uprisings that have broken the Communist grip on power in the East bloc.

Readers in Romania took week woke up to a graphic newspaper portrayal of the lifestyle of ex-Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's hard-drinking daughter, Zoe.

"When she saw a handsome man she wouldn't let him go until she had hooked him," the independent daily Tineretul Liber (free youth) said.

Zoe, the paper said, would drink her lovers under the table and then kick them out of her room if they were too drunk to respond to her advances.

In Czechoslovakia, the talk was of the high life of visiting Communist dignitaries during the 1970s.

The state news agency CTK reported that deceased and now disgraced Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev strode through game reserves with other top Communists, bagging hares like English aristocrats.

The stories have a familiar ring.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sowed the seeds of the new openness with his glasnost reforms which allowed the press to dig into the excesses of Stalinist Communism in the Soviet Union.

But floodgates opened with the wave of popular revolt that broke the Communist monopoly on power elsewhere in Eastern Europe, with the exception of Stalinist Albania.

In November, East Germans were reading all about the luxury lifestyle and flashy French limousines of their disgraced leader Erich Honecker.

The state media turned and bit the hands that fed them, disclosing the long-hidden secrets of their erstwhile masters.

Journalists poured over the ruling Communist party's top-security Wanditz compound describing the comfortable cream houses, heated swimming pool

and delicatessen that shielded the leadership from the deprivation outside.

Soon after, the spotlight fell on Bulgaria's ousted leader Todor Zhivkov, whose family enjoyed almost regal status during his 35 years in power.

Zhivkov was pilloried in the press for his 30 residences and his hunting.

"Bulgaria had become a hunting reserve for the president," one commentator said.

Zhivkov's son Vladimir was described as a playboy. Last month, journalists in Czechoslovakia toured the Communist party's exclusive Praha hotel revealing palatial suites, a luxury sports centre and a cinema where officials could enjoy private screenings of Western films they had banned.

But it is in Romania that interest in the private lives of the Communist elite has reached a new height. The story of the decline and fall of the Ceausescus, Romania's ruling family, has been fleshed out with lurid details of their lavish lifestyle.

Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena lived in a dream house packed with gold, silver and the country's most prized art treasures while his nation starved.

"I cannot even imagine a billionaire in the West living in such style," said one of those guarding the house.

Elena Ceausescu's private

apartments contained rows of shoes, fur coats and dresses.

The authorities opened up the luxury villa of Ceausescu's son Nicu, said to have been a womaniser and a gambler who squandered a fortune at Las Vegas gambling tables.

Nicu, 36, would travel the country with a coterie of different women and cronies. Restaurants would have to empty when they entered.

At his villa he had two maids to serve him caviar and champagne.

Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu were executed by firing squad on Christmas day, Zoe, in her thirties, and her brothers Nicu and Valentin are in prison awaiting trial. Valentin, the last to be arrested, was shown on TV in handcuffs on Saturday night.

Honecker, 77, is in hospital recovering from an operation to remove a kidney tumour. He is being investigated for abuse of power.

Zhivkov, too, is under investigation for abuse of power and diverting state funds into private bank accounts. He is living in a modest annex of one of his former residences.

Former Czechoslovak leader Gustav Husak, 77, who resigned on December 10, is living quietly in retirement in a villa in Prague.

The future for Eastern Europe's ousted Communist elite is uncertain. But one thing seems sure, revelations about their private life are likely to continue.

In Lithuania, Gorbachev faced protesters—and took them in stride

By Ann Inse
The Associated Press

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. — President Mikhail Gorbachev faced protesters on his home soil for the first time last week.

And just as significantly, his whole nation watched the faceoff. At every stop on Gorbachev's three-day tour of Lithuania, he encountered people shouting "freedom," and waving placards calling for independence for the tiny Baltic republic. Lithuania was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after a mere two decades as a sovereign state.

It was obvious even before Gorbachev left Moscow that he had no chance of achieving his assigned task of persuading Lithuanian Communists to reverse their decision to break with the national Soviet party and support independence for Lithuania.

Each night on the national television news, millions of Soviets saw Gorbachev confront the demonstrators with humour or with arguments.

Once carefully selected crowds would have been on hand to cheer the Soviet leader and any open dissenters would have been hustled away by police. On this trip, Gorbachev treated protesters as if they were an ordinary part of political life.

Perhaps from now on, they will be.

It seemed unlikely that Gorbachev, who has demonstrated his extraordinary political acuity in redefining the postwar world,

would set himself up for failure in Lithuania. It appears now he intended to demonstrate that even secessionists — if peaceful — will be fought with reason and logic, not tanks and troops.

His conduct sent a message that the Kremlin is more likely to accommodate the Lithuanian model of political pursuit of independence than the violence that erupted along the Iranian border in Azerbaijan.

Gorbachev said in Lithuania that he had no fear of a multiparty system and promised to put calls for secession to a vote, both part of his strategy for holding the union together through democratic means. Even if the Soviet empire does disintegrate, his approach could provide an orderly, peaceful alternative to chaos.

It was only nine months ago that Soviet troops armed with shovels and gas waded into a singing, dancing crowd of 10,000 pro-independence demonstrators in Tbilisi, Georgia, killing 19 demonstrators. A Soviet parliamentary commission has condemned the decision to use force against the peaceful protesters, but citizens still worry openly.

They also know Gorbachev faces hard-line opponents who are more likely than he is to crack down on those bent on breaking out of the union.

In tiny Lithuania, with just 3.7 million of the Soviet Union's 287 million people, the two-year fight for restoration of independence has been determinedly peaceful.

Hundreds of thousands of people packed the central square and

all the surrounding streets of Vilnius for a candlelit pro-independence demonstration Thursday night on Gorbachev's first day in town. The president steered clear of that rally, but at every stop, he met protesters carrying the yellow, red and green flags of independent Lithuania, or chanting "freedom."

Despite their fervor, the encounters were without exception civil. At one stop, Gorbachev gazed at the posters calling for freedom and joked, "and you say you are not free."

Local police linked arms in a human chain to keep the crowds from surging forward and overwhelming what Lithuanian officials described as the first Soviet Communist party chief to visit the republic in its 50 years as part of the Soviet Union. But security was not unusually oppressive.

Behind closed doors with Lithuanian officials, according to some of those present, Gorbachev kept hearing the same refrain: Independence.

On the street, where a decade ago billboards trumpeted "to labour" and praised the Communist party in red neon, downtown Vilnius sported a new theme: "Lithuania without sovereignty is Lithuania without a future."

For Gorbachev and for the rest of his high-powered entourage, including politburo members Vadim Medvedev and Yuri Maslyukov, it was an introduction to dealing with powerful domestic political opponents.

Indian leaders curb security forces in Punjab

By Michael Bettie
Reuters

AMRITSAR, India — The new Indian government, trying to negotiate an end to a bloody Sikh separatist campaign, has told security forces in Punjab to act within the law.

Senior officials in Punjab and New Delhi admitted in interviews that the security forces had abused their power under the previous government during a war that has spanned nearly a decade and cost thousands of lives.

"The violence was met by state violence and as a result Sikh youth has been alienated. Innocent people have been killed," said a cabinet minister who asked

not to be identified.

"You kill one innocent boy and the whole area will be affected," he said. "They all know whether he is a terrorist or not."

Curbing the security forces is a prime demand of hardline Sikh politicians who won most Punjab parliamentary seats in the November elections that ousted Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party.

The Sikh politicians allege the current killings — more than 100 have been reported this year — are the work of vigilante groups set up by the security forces or simple murders by police who report them as encounters with militants.

Amnesty International, the prominent human-rights group, has long asked New Delhi to be

allowed into Punjab to investigate widespread allegations of abuse.

Gandhi rebuffed each request saying the Indian legal system is competent to deal with any charges. The new administration of Prime Minister Vatsanath Pratap Singh is reviewing the question, but has not reached a decision, officials said.

State officials decline comment on specific allegations and say there are no plans to investigate past abuses.

"The policy is not to look into the past. The new stand is to keep within the law," a senior Punjab official said.

Police last year reported more than 2,000 deaths they attributed to the campaign by militants for an independent Sikh homeland

they call Khalistan (land of pure).

Local journalists mistrust the figures. "Half the time we have no idea of what really happened. We have been misled by the police so many times we are truly cynical," said one.

The violence from both sides leaves people scared.

"Everybody knows the vigilantes have not been paid since V.P. (Singh) came to power and everybody knows they have got into the extortion business," said a Sikh businessman in Amritsar.

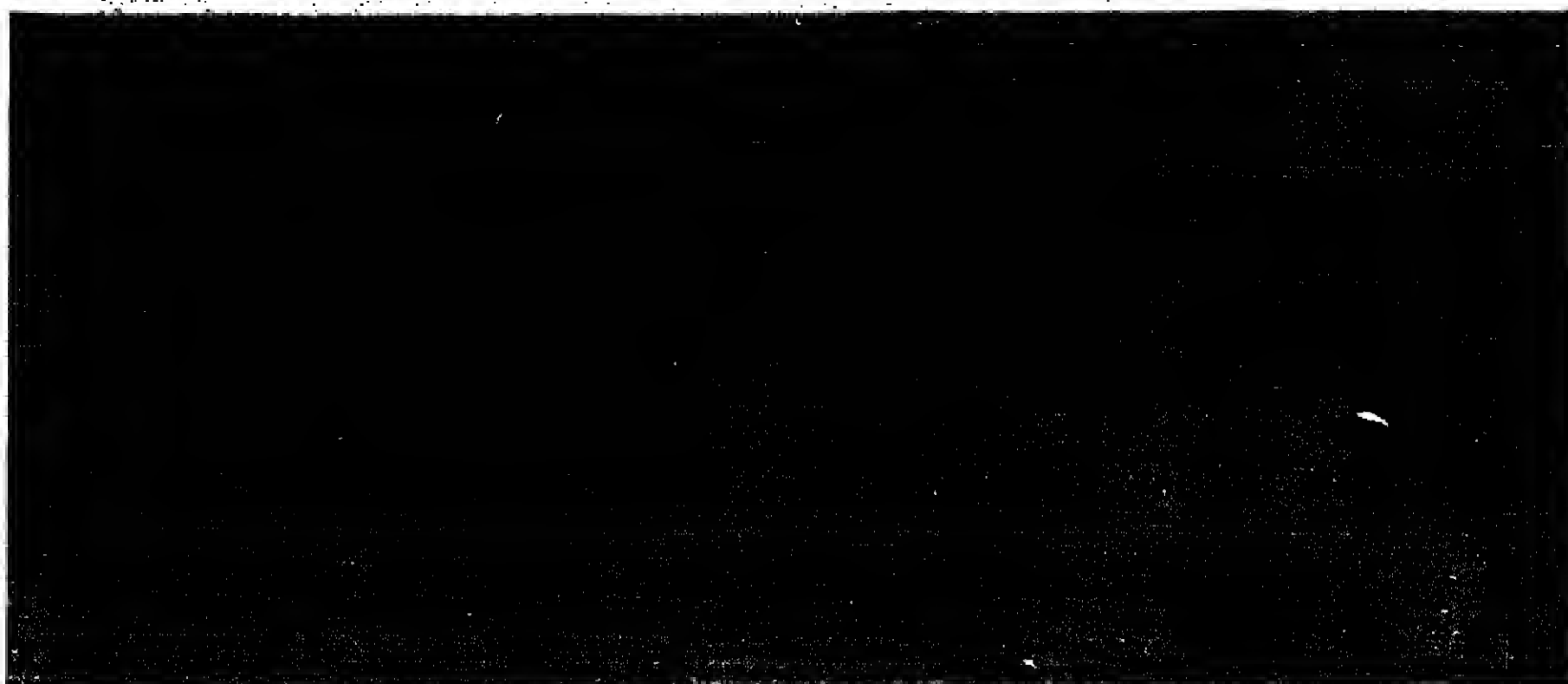
"When you get a letter demanding money on, say, Bhindranagar Tiger Force, you don't know whether it's come from the boys (militants) or who it's come from. You pay anyway," he said.

Militant kidnappings for ransom are frequent. Journalists say a prominent local figure kidnapped recently was told he had been exploiting people and now it was his turn to be exploited.

They said he paid a 2.1 million rupee (\$120,000) ransom and has then told if one word of this was published his family would be wiped out.

Officials said militants were now turning their money-raising efforts on income-tax inspectors, telling them they had been "steering" people long enough and now it was their turn to pay.

"Life may look normal enough in Amritsar, but it's not. We're all scared. This used to be a city that was open around the clock. Now it's closed down by 10:30 at night," the businessman said.



The all-women crew of Maiden (above) fight sea and wind and steer their ship (right) to victory.

Maiden's fantastic voyage

By Louise Chann

IT WAS getting towards midnight. The launch had passed Rangitoto, the extinct volcano that rises out of the middle of Auckland Harbour, and was heading north. Perched on a plastic stool, Pat Edwards — mother of British yachtswoman Tracy Edwards — lit another cigarette and gripped the side of the boat with her free hand. She hates the water and her knuckles turned white with tension. "I mustn't let Tracy see me smoking. I've given up really — I used to smoke 80 a day you see. Of course, she smokes, but it's different for Mimi, isn't it? Oh God, I'm so nervous. Listen to me!"

From the upper deck, a voice called down. "Look! I can see them!" And, yes, a tiny speck of red light at the top of the mast was just visible, coming silently through the blackness of sea and sky. The boat raced to meet it and a rousing, fearful chorus of cheers greeted the all-women crew of Maiden as she reached New Zealand at the end of the third leg of the nine-month long, 33,000 mile Whitbread Round The World Race.

They flashed their lights, shouted a greeting, but it wasn't yet over. There were still a few miles to go and Maiden was racing. While the supporters' boats — now numbering half a dozen or so — were lit up and crowded with boozey, sunburnt well-wishers, on Maiden it was dark and the crew were determinedly undistracted until — bang! — they crossed the finish line. Now they could start to celebrate, and tow cases of ice-cold cans of beer were heaved on to the deck, along with the strawberries Pat Edwards had picked for them earlier in the day.

There were a few miles between the finish line and the reception area at Princess Wharf and the sails were pulled down while Maiden gently motored around. By now, it was one o'clock on a Monday morning. There had been huge crowds to welcome the larger, New Zealand-owned maxi several days before, but no one was expecting much at this time of night. Yet the novelty of an all-women crew taking first prize for their division was too much to miss. A crowd of around 10,000 — in a city of just under one million — was gathered on the wharf. Many of them were women, some holding bouquets and gifts for the crew.

Pat Edwards was not the only one in tears. Her daughter — 5ft 2in, dimpled and 27 — had not only skipped Maiden to win two legs in Division D of the Whitbread, but had proved, in the face of enormous scepticism, that women can sail. And, as if anything more was needed, two days later, back on Princess Wharf, she received the trophy for British Yachtsman of the Year, the first time it has been awarded to a woman.

If you're looking for positive stories about women's achievements, Maiden is a beauty. It has all the elements — a determined woman who is told she cannot do something because of her sex, a narrow-minded male establishment and a few true believers who never doubted that justice would be done.

Born in Reading, brought up in South Wales, Tracy Edwards got her first job on a boat when she was 16. She worked for a while in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, as a cook or crew member, catering to lotus eaters, but soon switched gear to racing. She was sufficiently experienced to sail in the 1985/86 Whitbread, first on Norsk Data GB, then Atlantic Privateer, where she was the cook for three legs, including one they won.

At the end of the race she approached Rear Admiral Charles Williams, chairman of the race committee of the Whitbread.

Round. The World Race, who gave her permission to get together an all-women crew for the next Whitbread race, four years later. "Dame Naomi James had sailed single-handed round the world, so I could see no reason why an all-girl crew couldn't do it," he recalled in Auckland.

Edwards announced her intention at the 1986 Southampton Boat Show, but the yachting fraternity gave it a frosty reception. "I wasn't surprised by the adverse reaction," said Williams, "but the adversity they met has made them try harder. I have no doubt that getting over the original in-built prejudice was the biggest problem for Maiden."

Yacht racing is a serious sport. It's about time and money and sometimes even the larger things in life, like death. In many people's minds that was the spectre that hung over the project. They believed that as most women are not as strong as most men, they would not be safe sailing in this most gruelling of races.

To launch a serious contender for the race, Edwards needed a major sponsor to come up with around £80,000. By this time she had gathered around her a small group of people, who believed in the project, including former sports journalist Howard Gibbons, now the publicity director for Maiden. By 1987 he was working full time trying to get the idea off the ground — and into the water.

"The sponsorship was the problem. We approached more than 300 companies, mostly British. With a number of them discussions went a long way down the line, but at the end of the day they just wouldn't do it. Only one company actually came right out and said what the others were obviously thinking: that it was too dangerous and that they didn't want their name associated with 12 dead women. We knew we could do it — but we couldn't find anyone to put their faith in us."

As the Whitbread race grew nearer, plans became modified. Edwards had initially intended to build a boat especially for the race, but by March 1988 they decided instead to buy one and refit it themselves. By selling Edwards' house in Hamble, Hampshire, they raised the money to buy a 58 ft racing yacht, formerly Disque D'Or, skippered

by Pierre Fehlmann in the 1981/82 Whitbread.

To rustle up some more publicity, the Duchess of York was invited to name the refitted boat in the summer of 1988. In his hotel room in London, Ali Ghandour, then chairman of Royal Jordanian, happened to catch the news item on TV. And, as is the way with these things, it clicked. Royal Jordanian offered financial support for Maiden's first real race, a 3,500 mile crossing from Cadiz in Spain to Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

It was the first time an all-woman crew had sailed in such a long off-shore ocean race. They were competing with yachts from all over the world, 11 of them Whitbread entries, more than half of them multi-million-dollar maxis (the 80ft boats in the top division). Edwards' crew left them gasping by finishing in second place overall and, more importantly, first of all the Whitbread entries on corrected time (where weight and length of the boat are taken into consideration).

This clinched the deal with Royal Jordanian as sponsors but didn't silence those who believed that women not only couldn't but shouldn't be allowed to sail the Whitbread. Former Guardian journalist Tim Madge, who is writing a book with Edwards about Maiden, remembers, "There was unquestionably a view when this project got started that not only was there no place for women on racing yachts, but that for women to sail in Whitbread could be fatal. This sort of talk undoubtedly affected their progress in getting sponsorship, but it was never true. It was simply men's perception of women and once you cut out the prejudice, you could see that it was possible."

In the three years following her announcement of the project, Edwards had been flooded with applications from women all over the world wanting to join the crew. Several had joined her in Hamble as early as 1987, but it wasn't until a week before departure — Sept. 2, 1989 — that the last member was finalised. "I had to get the combination right. How we got on as a group was vitally important. I sacked one of the crew just before we left because she was causing all sorts of problems. I wouldn't change one

of the crew I have now though." En masse, kitted out in pink shorts and white T-shirts, they're a stunning lot, though not perhaps in the way that some might expect. From Britain, France, Finland, the U.S., Ireland, Holland and New Zealand, they're sun-tanned and well-toothed, but not particularly muscular or meaty. "We joke to each other about not putting on weight when we're sailing," said watch captain Dawn Riley. "Or you'll give the public what they expect — a pack of giant lesbians! I don't know why they should think that, anyway. Men sail together and they're not gay — are they?"

Riley believes the strength factor is overrated in sailing. "I'm probably the strongest one on the boat, and when I sail with guys I'm generally in the stronger half of the crew, but sailing is about much more than simply how big your muscles are."

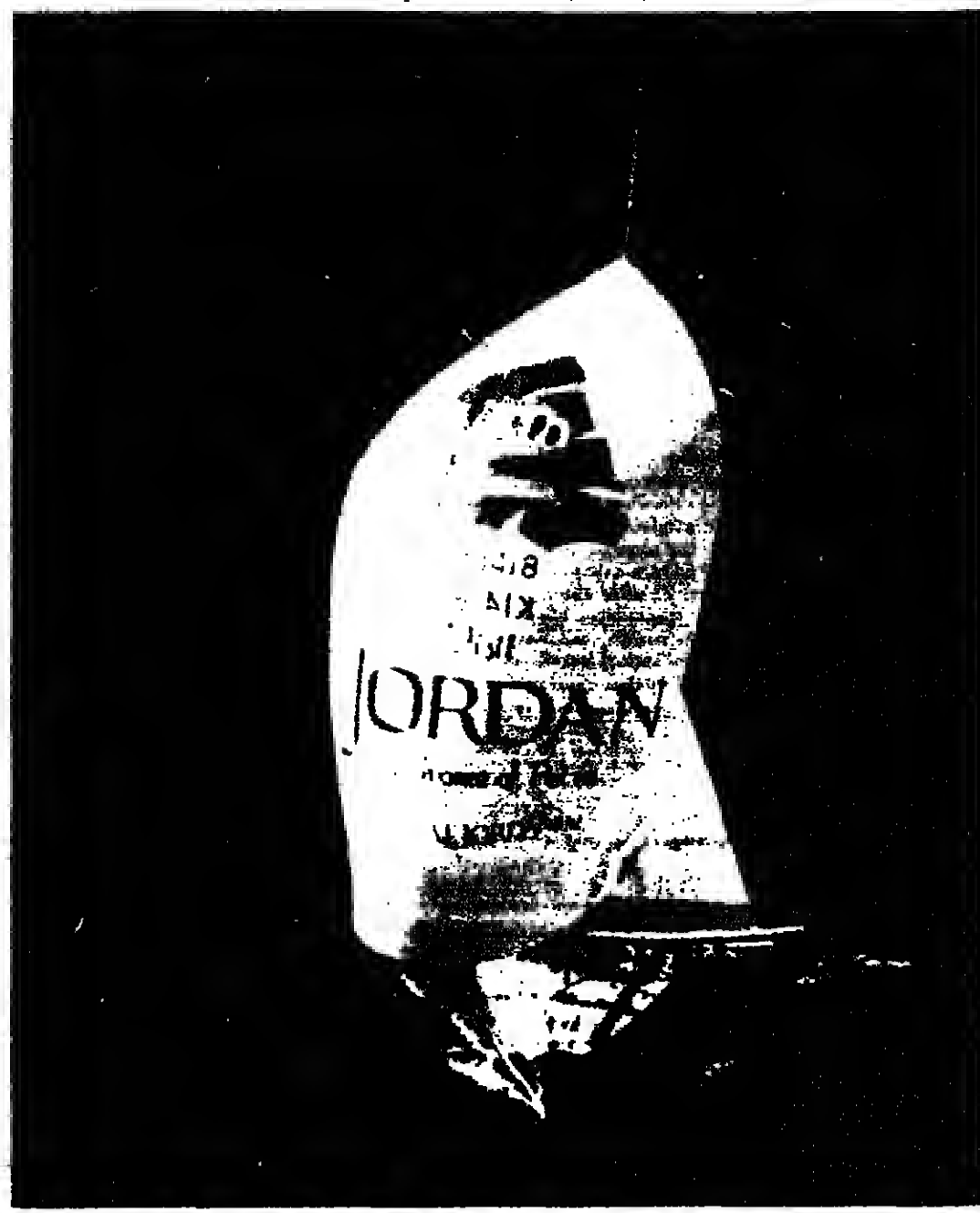
Riley's been sailing since she was one month old — "My baptism party was held on a boat on Lake St. Clair in Detroit" — and, at 25, is one of the most experienced on board. She's used to sailing with men, but enjoys the camaraderie of an all-women crew. "There are differences — we can sunbathe nude and sail topless when we're off-watch. You wouldn't want to do that

when men were around. And we have an enclosed heads (toilet) while most all-male crews just have a toilet sitting there or go up on deck and use the transom."

Claire Russell, the boat's 26-year-old doctor, reveals even more secrets of the long-distance sailor. "I talk to the doctors on the other boats (there are 23 in the race) and we compare notes. The only real difference is that on Maiden we use a lot of creams because the girls want to look after their skin. And girls tend to keep themselves cleaner, I think, so we don't get problems some of the men get, like fungal infections and abscesses."

The reality of life on a racing yacht is certainly no cruise. With the exception of the skipper and cook, the crew is divided into four sets of two or three, which are rostered in four-hourly watches. When they are off-watch, they can sleep, eat and relax, but never for longer than four hours.

"When we were going through the Southern Ocean from Punta del Este in Uruguay to Fremantle in Australia, we were so wrapped up with layer upon layer that it took the girls on watch about half an hour to dress and undress. That left them with only three hours to eat and sleep before they had to be on deck again," said Edwards.



Little things like clean clothes and hair lose their importance when you're sailing among icebergs or surfing at 35 knots. Russell says that Saturdays became the day she changed her knickers, by throwing them over the side. Storage is severely limited and everything on board is subject to weight restriction.

When they're coming into port, though, vanity's permissible, said youngest crew member Jeni Mundy. "Everyone is allocated a jug of fresh water to wash their hair, shave their legs, clean themselves up. It may be macho for the men to come in looking all burnt and wind-blown, but we don't want to look like that."

Russell and Mundy hope that Maiden's success will open up more racing yachts to women, but can also see some logic in single-sex sailing. "The conditions are so cramped and you're living under such strain that you do your best to avoid any problems. And mixing the sexes can lead to difficulties — whether it's sexual attraction or jealousy or competitiveness," says Mundy.

"And being all girls is fun. We've become very close, there's an awful lot of support. If something goes wrong the other girls will sympathise — you know, 'He wasn't worth it, anyway. You deserve better.' It's very sisterly," says Russell.

Boyfriends and husbands can cause problems. "You might fall madly in love with someone, then never see them again because you never end up in the same port at the same time. But that's what this lifestyle is about. It has its negative and positive points," says Mundy who, incidentally, was greeted at Princess Wharf by a love-struck member of Steingard 2, the leader in the maxi division.

Tracy Edwards is engaged to a property developer. He flew to Fremantle at the end of the second leg but, said Edwards, it was not an easy reunion. "It seems to be OK for women to follow the guys about, but not the other way around. He's very proud of me, but he felt uncomfortable. And I found it hard to keep my concentration, preparing for the next leg, so we decided that he shouldn't come on to New Zealand, that it might ruin everything."

And perhaps it's just as well. The pressure's even stronger now they're 16 hours in the lead. "When we won the Punta leg there was definitely a feeling of 'Well done, but you were lucky.' Now they realise that it wasn't just luck. Now they know we can win, they expect us to win. I must admit, though, we're still stunned by the success. Maybe a tiny piece of us wondered if the millions of people who told us we couldn't do it were right and the 12 of us were wrong. We knew we could get around the course, and we knew we could race, but I guess we weren't at all sure how we'd race against the others. I can guarantee that at the start of the race the other serious contenders in our division (from France, West Germany and Belgium) were racing against each other and didn't think about what Maiden was doing. But now they do," said Edwards proudly.

As the navigator as well as skipper, Edwards takes a cerebral rather than muscular approach to sailing, studying the weather and wind, juggling the shortest course against the fastest speed. And says Tim Madge, it works. "The women on Maiden really think. They're not so bothered about appearing macho. Perhaps they take the sails in a bit earlier, but

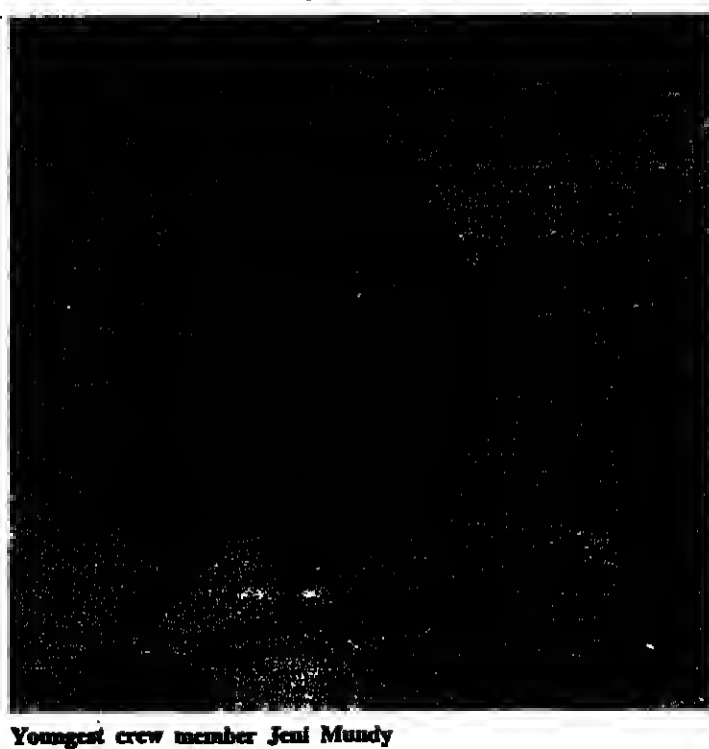
the fact that they won the last two legs proves how good they are."

Chauvinistic words are being eaten by yachting pundits, or at least they're making the right noises in public. But, says Tracy Edwards, it's not giving her the enormous pleasure she'd anticipated from proving them wrong. "I find there's no need to be smug about it. I'm just happy I've changed their minds and I do believe Maiden has done that. Maybe not overnight, but I think our success will mean that there will be more women sailing on racing boats. Maybe not in the next Whitbread, but it will happen. It's got to. Because it just wasn't fair that women should be excluded from something we enjoy doing so much!" — The Guardian.

Ship's doctor Claire Russell



Ship's doctor Claire Russell



Youngest crew member Jeni Mundy

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

CEAU plans seminar in May

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) is currently planning a seminar due to be held in Amman next May. The three-day seminar will discuss working papers on development and Arab economic integration in addition to the influence of the international economic variables on the economic situation in the Arab World. Taking part in the seminar will be Jordanian experts who will discuss the economic development in Jordan and its relationship to the Arab economic integration.

Morning Star appeals for cash

LONDON (AP) — Britain's communist daily newspaper, The Morning Star, published a front-page appeal to its readers Monday for £150,000 (\$240,000) cash to buy new equipment. The appeal was "the only solution to the enormous crisis faced by the paper as the result of the drastic halving of the copies previously ordered by the Soviet Union," the newspaper said. The Morning Star's Soviet distributor, the Mezhnika Company, halved its daily order of 12,000 copies on Dec. 25 after the Communist Party ordered it to meet efficiency guidelines. The tabloid, which marked its 60th anniversary this month, will lose an estimated £400,000 (\$660,000) of its annual income of £1.5 million (\$2.8 million) because of the Soviet cut.

EC unemployment declines

BRUSSELS (R) — The overall unemployment rate in the European Community (EC) dipped below nine per cent last November for the first time since 1982, the European Commission has said. The commission, the EC's executive body, said in a statement that a fall in the jobless rate from 9.7 to 8.9 per cent over the first 11 months of last year was a further sign of healthy Community economic growth. "(This) shows that the investment and growth-oriented policies of the Community are working... the aim of full employment is still far out but I am particularly happy that youth unemployment is falling even faster," said Henning Christophersen, commissioner for economic and financial affairs.

Iraq shifts refined oil products exports to crude

DUBAI (R) — Iraq has cut exports of refined oil products built up during and after the Gulf war as its vast crude export capacity returns to peacetime normality, oil traders in the Gulf said.

They said the move was a major policy change for Iraq which relied heavily on product sales when the eight year conflict with Iran hit crude exports as a source of sorely-needed cash to fund its war machine.

Iraq devised tortuous methods for exporting refined products to lessen the risk of Iranian attacks during the war which ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August 1988, and expanded afterwards because of war damage. But it has become just too costly to truck through Jordan and Turkey and use small tankers from shallow ports.

"Iraq was trucking products through Turkey and Jordan during the war, but now it has surplus crude export capacity," an oil analyst based in the Gulf said.

Oil industry sources said Iraq has stopped trucking products through Jordan and is phasing out products exports through Turkey. "Iraq wants to close down its small refineries and plans to use

whatever it produces at home," a Gulf-based oil trader said. There may be a small surplus of fuel oil after the bigger refineries have satisfied domestic needs, he added.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) has reduced first quarter naphtha exports to three Japanese companies from the Jebel Ali port in Dubai, other traders said.

Iraq started shutting up to 35,000 barrels per day (b/d) of naphtha, gas oil and fuel oil in small vessels to the Star Energy Corporation's tank farm at Jebel Ali from its Basra refinery last April.

It had to resort to the shuttle from its Zubair port in the northern Gulf as its main port of Basra on the Shatt Al Arab waterway is still closed, blocked by war wreckage and a death-trap of exploded ordnance and mines.

Zubair port can only accommodate small vessels as the canals leading to the port are shallow. "Shuttling costs and storage

fees were expensive, but as refining margins were high up to now, it did not hurt (Iraq) that much," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

But he said as Iraq has a big crude export capacity it plans to reverse its war-time policy of exporting products.

He said Iraq will close small refineries it operated during the war but retain the larger Basra, Baiji and Daura refineries, which have a total processing capacity of up to 450,000 b/d. Iraq's domestic needs at present are about 300,000 b/d.

Iraq reopened its 140,000 b/d Basra refinery early last year after extensive repairs.

Last week Iraq officially inaugurated its main crude oil export pipeline through Saudi Arabia, which has a design capacity of 1.65 million b/d.

Oil industry sources said Iraq's current crude export capacity through pipelines via Turkey, Saudi Arabia and from its partially repaired Gulf deep water Al Bakr oil terminal is about five million b/d.

Its sales quota of crude and refined products determined by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) totals currently 3.14 million b/d.

Israel's Koor suspends repayments to creditors

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Koor Industries suspended all payments on its \$1 billion debt Monday and chairman Arnon Gafny resigned in protest at plans to sell the group.

Company spokesman Arnon Bar-Noy told Reuters the Koor board decided to suspend payments of interest and principal to local and foreign creditors until its next meeting on Jan. 24.

Gafny announced his resignation before the meeting, saying: "Because discussion of the recovery plan has been suspended, because of the shortage of cash and the talk of selling the concern, I no longer see myself in a position to remain as chairman of the board."

Koor employs some 20,000 Israelis in activities ranging from cement and steel to food processing, electronics and telecommunications.

The trade union-owned conglomerate owes about \$1 billion to Israeli and foreign banks and has requested additional write-offs of \$125 million from its foreign creditors.

Foreign banks, led by Manufacturers Hanover, declined in December to agree to further write-offs, calling instead for efforts by Israeli creditors and the Israeli government.

Koor is due to make a key interest payment on \$105 million of U.S. bonds at the end of January and some company officials have expressed concern that if it defaults, creditors may move

to liquidate the giant concern. Two foreign investors, Shamrock Investment Corporation of California and the Canadian-based Belzberg Group, are discussing acquiring Koor, Israel's biggest industrial employer.

The main Israeli banks met Sunday to discuss the bids and said they would try to decide within a week.

Both offers depend on the government providing a \$50 million credit it promised Koor last year and on Koor selling assets to raise cash, treasury sources said.

Koor workers have protested at the proposed sale and threatened to block roads from Tuesday and bar potential purchasers from company premises, Ima News Agency said.

Representatives of Koor works committees also threatened to begin a strike next Sunday in all the company's subsidiaries and set up a permanent vigil outside the prime minister's office.

A spokesman for Hevrat Haovdim, the corporate arm of the Histadrut labour federation which owns Koor, said the company had accepted Gafny's resignation with regret.

Inflation tops 20%

Meanwhile, Israeli inflation rose to 20.7 per cent last year, the highest annual figure since 1985 when an austerity plan brought it down from more than 400 per cent, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Monday.

Syria strikes oil

DAMASCUS (AP) — The French Total Oil Company has made a new strike in the Wadi Oubaid, a region of northeast Syria, an official source at the ministry of petroleum and minerals reported Monday.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave no details of the strike such as the depth it was made or the daily oil flow.

But he said Total was continuing prospecting in the region to assess the size of the discovery. Total is one of 10 foreign companies involved in exploration and development of Syria's oilfields.

Crude oil production is currently running at around 350,000 barrels a day and is expected to soon reach 400,000 barrels daily when the Al Taysani and Al Azba fields in the northeast go on stream.

Production is double domestic requirements and last year Syria became a net exporter for the first time, with revenues of \$550

million forecast this year. That is a major shot in the arm for the flagging economy.

The source reported that the Al Furat Petroleum Co., in which the state-run Syrian Petroleum Co. has a 50 per cent stake, West Germany's Deminor 18.75 per cent and U.S. Shell and Royal Dutch Shell with 15.625 per cent each — is conducting an assessment of the new field.

The source said the Syrian field in the northeastern Aged Al Sham region has reached the initial phase of production. He said output will reach 30,000 barrels a day of high-quality, low-sulphur crude when development is completed.

During the second half of last year, there were many new oil finds which are in the process of being developed, he said, but gave no details.

He predicted there will be more oil and gas strikes in the coming months amid widespread exploration.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 16, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	112.7	113.8
U.S. dollar	632.0	638.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.1	451.6
Pound Sterling	1080.9	1091.7	Dutch guilder	330.6	343.0
Deutsche mark	362.9	366.7	Swedish crown	105.8	106.9
Swiss franc	430.1	434.4	Italian lira (for 100)	51.5	52.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	184.3	186.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6303/13	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1632/42	Canadian dollar	
	1.7103/10	Deutsche mark	
	1.9285/95	Dutch guilder	
	1.5278/88	Swiss franc	
	35.82/87	Belgian franc	
	5.8075/25	French franc	
	1272/1273	Italian lire	
	145.45/55	Japanese yen	
	6.1910/60	Swedish crown	
	6.5690/40	Norwegian crown	
	6.6210/60	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	414.00/414.50	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed weaker after nervous trading, pulled down by a heavy fall in Tokyo. The All Ordinaries index fell 6.3 to 1,675.4.

TOKYO — Worries about falling bond prices intensified, sending the Nikkei index plunging more than 800 points before a partial recovery at the close. The index ended at 36,850.36, down 666.41 or 1.78 pct.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index tumbled 34.90 to close at 2,751.79 in response to sharp declines in Wall Street and Tokyo.

SINGAPORE — Share prices retreated in the afternoon to close broadly lower in line with sharp losses on the Tokyo bourse. The Straits Times index fell 13.04 to end at 1,512.50.

BOMBAY — Shares fell for the second day on fears of heavy taxes in the budget for fiscal 1990/91, ending March.

FRANKFURT — Shares firmed more than three per cent amid concern that reforms in Eastern Europe could come to a halt if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is forced out of office. The DAX index of 30 blue chips fell 52.93 to close at 1,788.68.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower on profit taking after the market took its lead from weak German shares. The SPI index fell 17.4 points to 1,122.5.

PARIS — French share prices fell two per cent to the day's low at midsession, continuing Monday's slide in reaction to sharp drops on Wall Street and Tokyo, but volumes remained thin. The CAC-40 index was 40.46 lower at 1,922.43 by 1230 GMT.

LONDON — Shares moved off day's lows in late trading as Wall Street defied market's worst fears falling only modestly in early trade. By 1544 GMT the FTSE was 27.3 easier at 2,338.9.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks remained lower across the board, but blue chips were finding technical support at moderately lower levels. The Dow was off at 2649.

Jordan phosphate exports booming

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, the world's third biggest rock phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its highest-ever exports of the fertiliser base last year.

"1989 was a record year from all angles," Wasef Azar, managing director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), told Reuters in an interview.

He said the company would increase earnings this year and hoped to boost exports to Eastern European countries trying to implement reforms that would lead to freer markets.

"We have to see what happens in Eastern Europe. We could have a better situation there," Azar said.

The phosphate industry, helped by rising world prices, is a bright spot in Jordan's recession-hit economy.

Central bank figures show that sales of phosphate rock and fertiliser derivatives produced by JPMC accounted for 44 per cent of Jordanian exports in the first eight months of 1989.

Azar said JPMC had exported 6.4 million tonnes last year, compared with exports of 5.8 million tonnes in 1988.

JPMC made a gross profit of 109 million dinars (\$160 million) and will pay 50 million dinars in company tax. The board of directors had recommended paying a dividend of 20 per cent to shareholders, against 15 per cent in 1988, he said.

Azar expected world phosphate prices, which have firmed in recent years, to rise by \$2 or \$3 a tonne in 1990 to a range of \$38 to \$52, depending on grade and quality.

The new Shidiya mine, being developed in the southern desert with help from the World Bank and Arab funds, produced 800,000 tonnes of phosphate rock last year, compared with 300,000 in 1988.

Output at the mine is due to rise to 3.2 million tonnes in 1992. The Shidiya area has 750 million



Wasef Azar

tonnes of proven phosphate reserves and 250 million tonnes of indicated reserves.

Azar said phosphate production would increase to 10 or 11 million tonnes a year by the end of the century. Local chemical plants would absorb as much as 3.5 million tonnes by then.

The Soviet Union, a new JPMC customer, is expected to buy about half a million tonnes of phosphate rock this year.

Fertiliser exports last year went mainly to East Africa and South Asia, instead of to Europe as in the past, Azar said.

JPMC exported 602,000 tonnes of the fertiliser diammonium phosphate (DAP), down from 625,400 in 1988, 16,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, up from 14,000 in 1988, and 16,000 tonnes of aluminium fluoride, little changed from the previous year.

The Aqaba fertiliser plant, which in 1983 made a small profit, its first since it began operating in 1982, contributed 19 million dinars (\$28 million) to JPMC's 1989 profit.

JPMC has been discussing joint ventures to produce phosphoric acid, compound fertiliser and triple super phosphate with India, the Soviet Union and Pakistan.

Azar said he hoped expansion plans, involving up to six joint ventures, would be clarified by June.

West Germany extends stock exchange hours

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany's eight stock exchanges Monday started opening for three hours each trading day instead of two as part of a campaign to counter competition from foreign bourses.

Although demand for West German stocks has surged since the opening of East German borders last November, the exchanges have been struggling to hold onto their own business.

Nearly one third of all turnover in West German blue chip shares is transacted not in Frankfurt or Hamburg but in London.

Frankfurt bank Georg Hauck Und Sohn said in his latest report that the extension of bourse hours "should lead to a further strengthening of the West German stock market."

Brokers welcomed the extra hour, saying it helped them handle the scramble for shares by investors who believe West German companies are best placed to benefit from the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

Official trade now begins one hour earlier at 1030 local time (0930 GMT) and ends as usual at

1330 local time (1230 GMT). The session is still much shorter than at most other financial centres, where trading usually begins early in the morning and ends in mid-afternoon or early evening.

Michael Waldeck, managing director of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, the largest West German bourse, termed the first day of extended hours a success.

Volume was lively and the DAX index of 30 leading West German shares recovered from a weak opening to end at 1,841.61, down 14.05 points from Friday but up 22 from the day's low.

"If you had cut the DAX off an hour earlier, then you would have cut off a part of that recovery as well," Waldeck said.

Most brokers doubted that hours would be extended further in Frankfurt.

Other measures to sharpen competition include the December start-up of IBIS, a screen-based securities quote system seen as a first step toward computerised trading, and the launch next week of a new options and futures exchange, Deutsche Termin Boerse (DTB).



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEAGE
YARIF
CLARNE
RALOPP

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE BAROMETER FALLS.

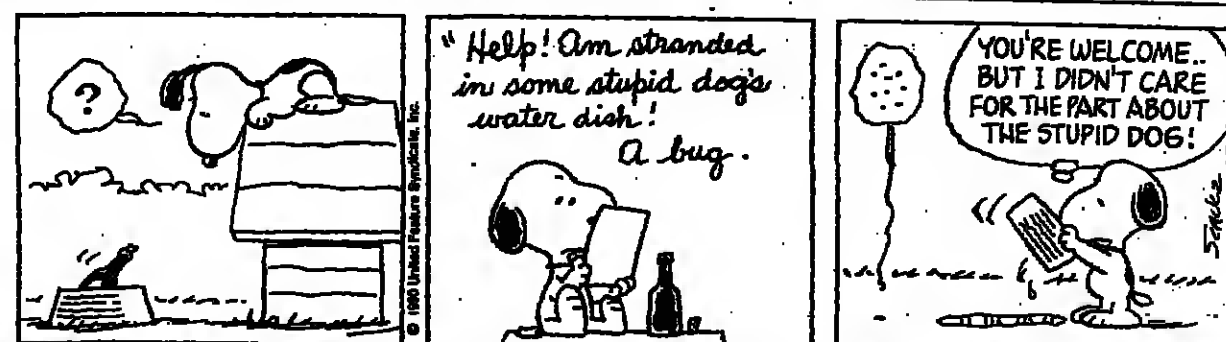
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

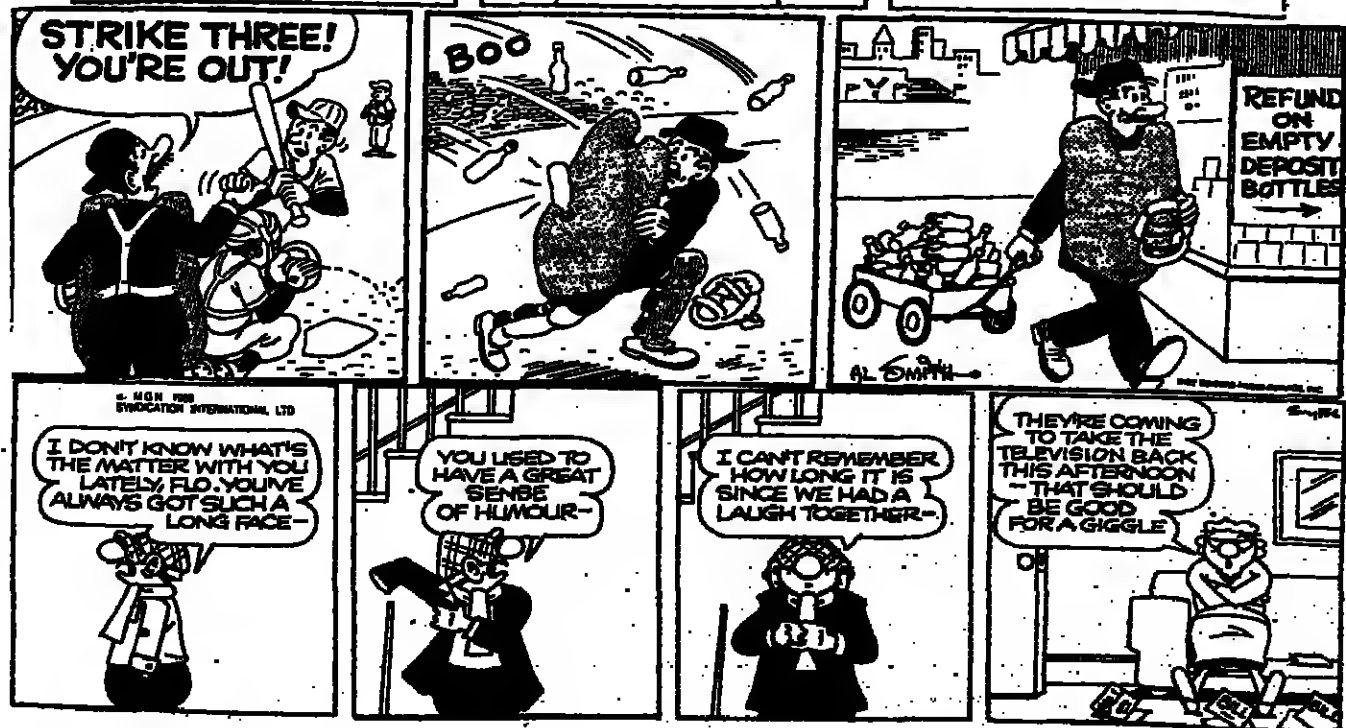
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: DERBY CRAWL BEAVER LAYMAN
Answer: What the bank robber got when the security system sounded — "ALARMED"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



'UAE reaching WC finals a dream come true'

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' success in reaching the World Cup finals in Italy this year, is "a dream come true," but it was little chance of getting past the first round, the former national squad captain said Monday.

But Ahmed Eissa stressed in an interview with the Associated Press that the UAE team is out to play hard and gain the most experience it can playing the world's top soccer teams.

"It's a dream come true for the UAE," said Eissa. "I never expected to see the team qualify for the World Cup finals in my lifetime."

It will be the first time the Emirates' squad has reached the finals of soccer's top tournament. The UAE is grouped with former champions West Germany,

Yugoslavia and Colombia in the 24-nation finals starting June 9. "naturally we're overjoyed, but we know that we don't progress beyond the first round. However, that won't stop us from giving our best," Eissa said.

Eissa, who has watched the Germans, Yugoslavs and Colombians play, noted: "They're all very good and professional. It's unique experience for the Emirates to play with the world's best teams and we mustn't waste this opportunity."

He added: "The players must be prepared to work hard. They must not only make the best use of the opportunity, but keep the UAE and Gulf flag flying high with their performances."

"Even when they're losing, they mustn't lose heart. They must fight on," Eissa, 38, was the captain of

the UAE's first national squad when it was formed in 1972 and stayed on as skipper until 1980.

When he began his soccer career — he played midfield — the UAE, a federation of seven Gulf emirates, had been formed only a few months earlier.

In those days, soccer games were played on sand. But the sport has come a long way since as the Emirates' oil wealth was spent lavishly on providing facilities and developing players.

There are now 29 clubs in the UAE League, split into two divisions, reflecting soccer's coming of age in the Gulf region.

In recent years, Kuwait and Iraq have also qualified for the World Cup finals. Saudi Arabia took part in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and won the junior World Cup last year.

Soccer was introduced into the UAE about 1940, back in the days when the emirates, then known as part of the trilateral coast, were under British protection. British teams arranged friendly games in the region.

The former Al Ahli Club captain now works for the country's governing sports body, the UAE

supreme council in the youth and sports.

"We Arabs took to football... because we love an exciting sport," Eissa said.

"Before the UAE was formed, each emirate had different leagues and the standards were low. But after the national league was formed in 1972 things began to get better organized."

For a while, clubs in the emirates of Dubai played on artificial pitches. But these were abandoned in the early 1980s because of a high injury rate and the lower cost of maintaining grass pitches.

Eissa was one of the driving forces behind a 1983 move to ban foreign players from competing in local leagues.

At that time, the Gulf countries were using their oil wealth to attract Arab and international stars to strengthen their national teams.

"When the football association decided to ban foreign players, it hoped that would allow local players to fill the gaps and give them an incentive to play better football," Eissa said.

"Now we know that it's paid off and we're happy about it."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

Becker, McEnroe ease past 1st hurdle

By Robert Woodward
Reuter

MELBOURNE — Boris Becker, in a hurry to become world number one, and John McEnroe, who at 30 realizes time is rapidly running out, expended little effort to race into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The pair each lost just four games, Becker routing Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 on the centre court where the American number four seed earlier disposed of Frenchman Thierry Tulasne's limp challenge 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

Becker, often a slow starter in

major tournaments, was delighted with his performance in the night game. "I think it was one of the best first round grand slam matches ever for me. From the first point I was really playing very well which is not normal, the number two seed said."

Both players have claimed three Wimbledon singles crowns and also won the U.S. Open but have yet to win the Australian title. McEnroe knows 1990 could be his last chance.

"I know I don't have that much time left," said McEnroe, who is bypassing the doubles here to stay fresh. "I still think I'm a long shot to win this tournament."

Becker admits he has not played to his potential at the Australian Open, never passing the quarter-finals.

But victory in Melbourne would give him three successive grand slam titles and underline his claim to be the world's best player rather than Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl.

Becker needed to play at little more than half pace against Haarhuis, who beat McEnroe at the 1989 U.S. Open.

The Dutchman appeared ill at ease, making too many unforced errors as his opponent moved him at will around the court, but Becker said he had also been nervous.

"I was thinking very much about how he beat McEnroe and it made me a little afraid at the beginning," said Becker. "Maybe that's the reason why I played so well."

"But in a grand slam if you want to win the tournament you cannot play too well too early because you'll play worse by the time the quarter-final comes around. It's a fine line playing not too good and not bad."

Third seed Stefan Edberg, who saved three set points in the first set before moving past Australia's Johan Anderson, said it was too early to speak of Becker as the next king of men's tennis.

"I see myself as a contender although at the moment looking at the rankings it is a battle between Lendl and Becker and me coming a little behind," said Edberg, who reached two grand slam finals in 1989. He won 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Tuesday.

On the second day of the two-week championships only one men's seed, Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany, and one women's, Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union, failed to make it through the first round.

Number 10 seed Steeb appeared tired after his efforts in reaching the New South Wales Open final last week, fell 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 to Finland's Veli Paloheimo while Savchenko, seeded 12, lost out after a titanic struggle to France's Catherine Tanvier 4-6, 6-1, 12-10.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini took some time to find her range



John McEnroe

against hard-hitting American Amy Frazier, recovering from 5-3 down in the first set to win 7-5, 6-1.

Three men's seeds, Andrei Gornes of Ecuador (9), Yhnik Nuh of France (12) and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union (11), needed five sets to reach the second round.

Noah, who defeated Steeb in the New South Wales Open final, was also still sore from his exertions and complained he could not function properly in a match that started at 10 a.m.

"I hate waking up early in the morning and having to work hard, I've never been able to be physically 100 per cent in the morning," he said after beating Yugoslav Goran Pripi, who led 3-0 in the fifth set with a point for 4-0.

Chesnokov, who conducts press conferences with the same languid grace with which Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecier plays tennis, agreed he nearly left it too late to win his game against Australia's Mark Kratzmann, coming from two sets down to win 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"When the score was 5-4 (in the third set tiebreak), I just closed my eyes and hit the ball as hard as possible," Chesnokov said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNAN MURCH
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COUNT YOUR TRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A J 10 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ J 4 2
WEST
♠ K 5
♥ 8 3 2
♦ Q 10 8 5 3
♣ K 8 4
EAST
♠ 9 7 4 4
♥ Q J 10 9 7
♦ 2
♣ Q 10
SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A K 4
♦ A K 2
♣ A 9 7 5 3
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣.
We're about to give you some advice which will fatten your wallet if you're a rubber bridge player, but might wreck havoc with your duplicate game. Take care of your contract and let the overtricks take care of themselves.
North's five-card suit and honor in partner's club suit was just enough to warrant raising to game. Note that the jump to two no trump, since it gives an exact count of the South hand, is not a game force. It can be passed should North

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day when problems from the past will need your immediate attention and you may need to expend more time and effort than you have available.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good time to plan trips with friends who are interesting or talented. Be considerate and take your family away from home to new places.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will find you and your family are in harmony about your joint objectives. Don't hesitate to discuss any and all issues with your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Listen closely to what an outspoken person has to suggest in solving a problem. Home can be more attractive and comfortable by some new items.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make sure any plans for outside recreation are carefully arranged. Your home can be a particularly happy place today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get out in the world of action to carry through whatever promises you have made. You can have a very good time getting out on the town with your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you want to add to your home in anyway, now is the time to do so. Be ready to be off on a jaunt

at a moments notice with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) It's your turn now to entertain outside friends and show your affection for them. You can join with attachment and congenial contacts in interesting trips.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) All kinds of interesting matters can now occur at your residence. Don't hesitate to discuss any moot or difficult problems with friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A man friend who is fond of or admires you will make life more pleasant. Don't raise the dust at home over a situation you really do not understand.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Getting away from usual routines now will get colorful out of your mind. Invite into your home persons to whom you are indebted.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite into your home and entertain the most influential persons you know. Get your practical affairs on a better basis with your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Discuss family plans now with an outsider who can help. Help your attachment to express his or her talent in any project there might be.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chyba

ACROSS
1 Contours
7 Thicket
11 Litter letters
14 Luminous ring
15 Lily plant
16 Symbol drink
17 Breakfast dish
18 Sign of bondage
19 Genetic letters
20 Run-off
21 Time past
24 Rush
26 Uccary
27 Erupted
30 Always to poets
32 Cassin's bird
33 Single
34 Delicacy
37 Trilled
42 Bore resident
43 Mass
44 Mineral vein
45 Units of expenditure
47 Sp. queen
48 Railways
50 Author
51 Delight
52 Kind of sand
53 Barber's item
55 Ornamental
56 Buttons
57 Rippling phrase
60 — mail
64 Rat wood
65 Captain horse
66 Indian home
68 Lost
69 Came to earth
70 Going wrong
71 Political patronage
72 Permeable
73 Moves after prodding

DOWN
1 Ancient bard
2 — sapiens
3 War god
4 Sea creature
5 Chemical
6 Lusher
7 Agree
8 Great deal
9 Jet
10 Get angry
11 Submerged
12 Biblical mount
13 Exile
14 Endless
15 Leaving
16 Ale pool
17 Be angry
18 Locomot
19 Author's following
20 Yellow back
21 Dolt
22 ATL's dog
23 Hawaiian bird
24 Admires for short
25 Spartan seal
26 Kind of ear
27 Tabor umbrella
28 Like a hawk
29 "Ad adn per —"
30 Overlooks
31 Inquirer
32 Nikole
33 Complete
34 Only
35 Be patient
36 Narrative poem
37 Furnished
38 Proper
39 Before

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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every Thursday read

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RISHA GAS POWER STATION
ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER
AVAILABILITY
FOR
GENERATOR TRANSFORMERS
TENDER No. 53/89

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Tender Document, No. 53/89 is available for purchase as of 17 January, 1990.

The Tender consists of manufacturing and supply of two (2) Generator Transformers 11/132 K.v. 45 MVA. The supplier shall provide supervision during erection and commissioning.

Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA Tendering Committee before 10:00 a.m. Amman time, 17 March, 1990 at the JEA offices in Amman.

Tender documents are available at the address given below for a non-refundable fee of JD 50 payable to JEA for each set of the tender documents.

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Amman, Jordan

Telex: 21259 JEASAK

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FOR
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FACILITIES
TENDER No. 52/89

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Tender Document, No. 52/89 is available for purchase as of 17 January, 1990.

The tender consists of supply, erection, testing and commissioning of gas conditioning unit, pipeline facilities and auxiliaries required for the treatment of gas for Risha Gas Power Station.

Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA Tendering Committee before 10:00 a.m. Amman time, 17 March 1990 at the JEA offices in Amman.

Tender documents are available at the address given below for a non-refundable fee of JD 150 payable to JEA for each set of the tender documents.

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Amman, Jordan

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Jordan Times
667171-6

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Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 677420
COMING TO AMERICA
Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
PHILADELPHIA
Tel: 634144
RAGE TO KILL
Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
NIJOUN
Tel: 675571
Ahmad Zaki - Yusra
In
One Woman is Not Enough (Arabic)
Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema
PLAZA
Tel: 674111
SPACE BALLS
Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Boat people protest Hurd's visit

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of Vietnamese boat people protested Tuesday during a visit by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to a detention centre, pleading against forced returns to their communist homeland.

Wearing white head bands reading "No forced repatriation," the refugees gathered in the exercise yard of Hei Ling Chau detention centre before Hurd arrived for a 25-minute visit.

In comments to reporters at the camp, Hurd said forced repatriation was the only solution to Hong Kong's boat people crisis. Vietnamese greeted the visit with shouts and fist raising.

The government began forcible repatriation on Dec. 12 in a pre-dawn operation at a detention centre in Kowloon. In all, 51 men, women and children were sent back to Hanoi.

Of the 40,000 Vietnamese in detention centres throughout the colony, about 85 per cent face being sent home because they will not qualify for refugee status under a screening process.

Hong Kong divides the Vietnamese into "economic migrants," who it says have no right to remain in the territory, and refugees, who risk political persecution at home and will be allowed to seek refuge in a third country.

Meanwhile, the United Nations announced that a group of 120 Vietnamese were to voluntarily return to their homeland Tuesday. So far, 997 Vietnamese have voluntarily gone back to Vietnam. More than 1,000 are waiting to return.

The foreign secretary, on the last day of a four-day visit to Hong Kong, said the demonstration was expected and non-threatening.

Hurd said the camps held too many people in too small a space but added that forcing them out of Hong Kong was the only way to solve the problem.

On Monday, Amnesty International issued a report harshly criticising the Hong Kong government's treatment of the Vietnamese. It accused police and security forces of beating refugees and said investigations of official brutality were quashed by the agencies involved.

The London-based human rights organisation said Hong Kong had placed the Vietnamese in squalid detention centres to stem the tide of refugees fleeing Vietnam. That, it said, was a violation of the U.N. Charter on Refugees.

The government called the report "unfounded" and denied the brutality charges.

11 found dead
The bodies of 11 women, believed to have been boat people killed by pirates, have washed up on Thailand's southern shore, police said Tuesday.

Six bodies were found on the beaches of Nakhon Si Thammarat Sunday and five more Monday, said a senior officer on condition of anonymity.

Some of the bodies were stripped, and each had a nylon rope tied around the neck, he said. They showed no stab or gunshot wounds.

Islamabad in inertia awaiting 'the birth'

By Malcolm Davidson
Reporter

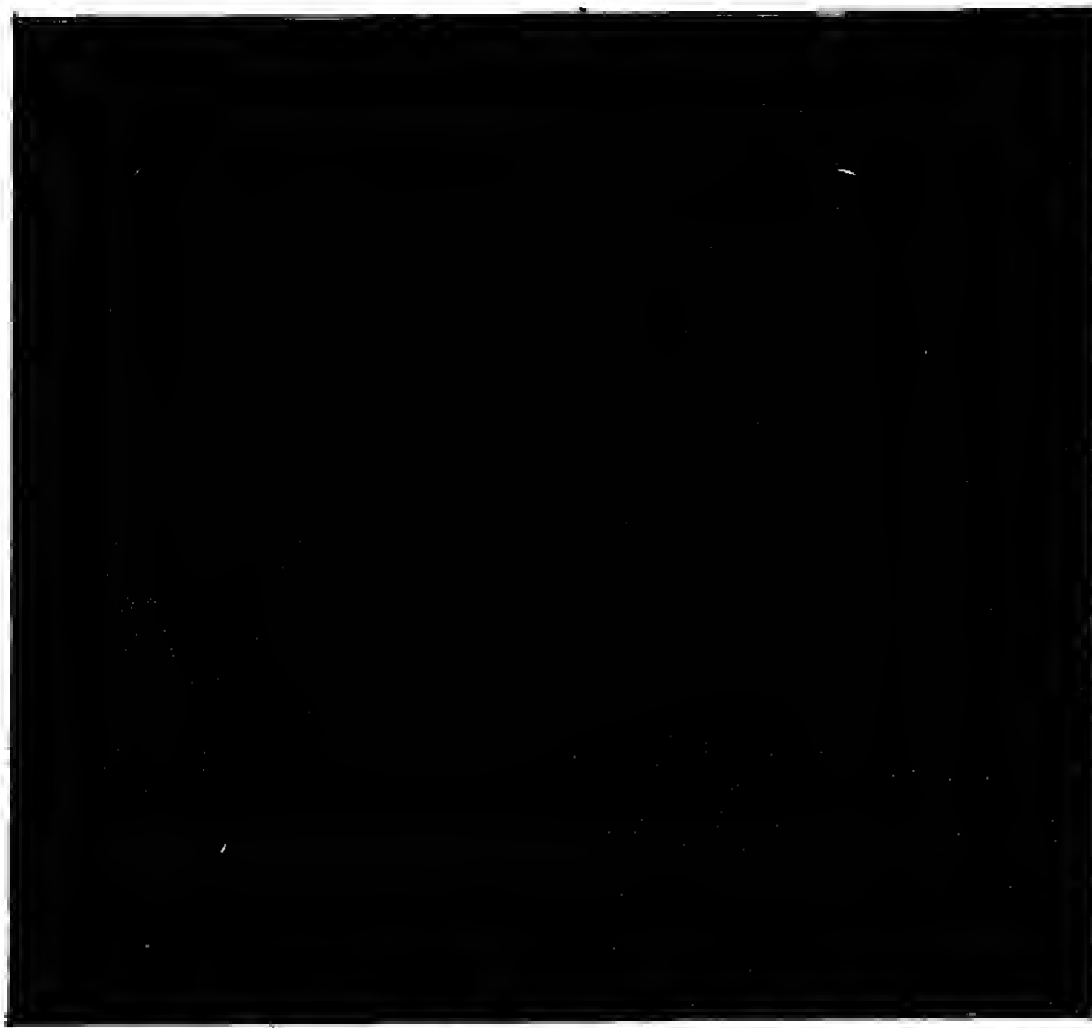
ISLAMABAD — Benazir Bhutto will soon become the world's first prime minister to give birth while in office, but the likely date remains Pakistan's best kept secret.

Not even her closest advisers will admit to knowing when the child is due for fear that it could give the opposition a chance to launch a challenge to her fragile government.

But while Pakistan waits, political analysts say the government machine is grinding to a standstill, with a series of tough decisions being put off until after "the birth".

It is two months since all Bhutto's ministers submitted their resignations to allow a cabinet reshuffle after an opposition no-confidence motion she narrowly survived.

She asked them to stay on temporarily but has made no move to make changes in a line-up that is widely regarded as short on talent.



Romanians watch a drawing of overthrown dictator with a swastika and dracula's teeth in the northern city of Cluj

Ceausescu's son, others face charges of genocide

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — The youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu will be put on trial this week along with other close associates of the executed Romanian dictator.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu said Monday that the case against Nicu Ceausescu, 36, would begin this week although he did not specify the precise charges against him.

But Robu, in interviews on television and with the Romania Libera newspaper, said Ceausescu family members and associates would face such charges as complicity in genocide, abetting genocide, qualified murder and undermining the national economy.

Nicu, whose stronghold was the central provincial capital of Sibiu, was arrested shortly after the Dec. 22 overthrow of his father.

Robu said those standing trial

from this week would include former political and administrative personalities, members of Ceausescu's family and hundreds of "terrorists."

Romania's new rulers use the term terrorist to describe members of Ceausescu's hated secret police and anyone else who fought to keep the dictator in power.

Ceausescu's eldest son Valentin and his daughter Zoe are also under arrest awaiting trial. Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day after a brief trial by a military tribunal for genocide.

The ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) abolished the death penalty on Jan. 1 saying Ceausescu and his wife would be the last executions.

But under intense public pressure, they have since decided to

put the matter to a referendum on Jan. 28.

The government also announced an amnesty Monday for crimes committed before the Dec. 22 revolution that overthrew the regime. It excluded from the Amnesty former functionaries of Ceausescu, murderers, rapists and "terrorists."

Trials are to begin Friday in Timisoara for 11 Securitate members, Rompress said. The Securitate's shooting of demonstrators in Timisoara last month ignited the Romanian revolution.

Police had said Saturday those trials were to begin Monday. There was no explanation for the delay.

The government, meanwhile, promised Monday to consult all opposition parties on the timing of elections, but said it would make the final decision on the controversial question.

Teenager, baby freed after uproar

LONDON (AP) — A teenage mother jailed with her baby in a shoplifting case is to be freed, a court ruled Monday, ending a legal drama that had Britain in uproar.

Tracey Scott, a 19-year-old unmarried supermarket cashier, was jailed for six months by a judge who said he wanted to deter women from getting pregnant to avoid jail.

Her crime was to let friends walk out of the supermarket with goods unpaid for. She pleaded guilty to 10 charges of theft, and went to prison two weeks ago with her daughter, Alesha, then 10 weeks old.

Coming from Northern Circuit Judge James Pickles, the punishment was not entirely a surprise. The 64-year-old judge is known nationwide for his quirky sentencing.

Only last June he was in the headlines for jailing a witness who was too frightened to testify against a man accused of beating her up, and the day after putting

Scott in prison. He let off two of the supermarket thieves with 50 hours community service apiece.

"By making a lottery of the law, Judge Pickles treats the public with contempt. He must not be allowed to continue," fumed the tabloid Today newspaper.

The Times opined that "Judge Pickles' decision again needs questioning in this case."

Pickles maintained in his verdict that while he did not suspect Scott of getting pregnant to avoid going to prison, he was afraid other women might get that idea.

"Would it be right," he asked, "to let young women know that one way of possibly or probably avoiding custody would be to deliberately become pregnant between the time they have been detected committing a crime and the time they were being sentenced?"

Lord Lane, the lord chief justice, clearly thought not. Presiding over Monday's court of appeals hearing, he said Pickles'

reasoning had left a "most unfortunate" impression.

The offence was not serious enough to warrant imprisonment, Lane said. A high school dropout from a broken home, Scott had been a good worker at the supermarket in Huddersfield, Northern England, and sinned only to win popularity, he said.

Pickles, the judge said, "seems to us to have been concerned more with the public import of what he was doing and saying, rather than the justice of it."

Scott is in Styl women's prison in Cheshire, and was brought to a court hearing in London Tuesday where she was to be formally released.

Pickles is an unusual judge. He flouts regulations by discussing his actions in the news media, and takes a blunt-talking populist line. "I don't like the notion of aristocracy or even monarchy. I don't accept anyone is different from me because they were born in a different bed," he told the Sunday Times in March.

Storming of secret police HQ alarms East Berlin

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Communists said Tuesday the storming of secret police headquarters showed the country's "secret revolution" could get out of hand.

But workers in one city Tuesday ignored appeals for calm by the Communists and the pro-democracy opposition and staged a warning strike.

The six-hour strike at a state-owned factory in Gera, in southern East Germany, was staged by workers to show dissatisfaction with the still-dominant Communists, according to West Berlin's Rias radio station.

In Bonn, the conservative daily newspaper Die Welt said Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was expected to visit East Berlin in the next two or three weeks.

Die Welt, quoting what it called well-informed sources in East Berlin, said Gorbachev planned a "massive show of support" for his long-time friend, East German Communist Premier Hans Modrow.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans protested Monday in several cities, including Jena, Zwickau and East Berlin, and mobs ransacked secret police headquarters in East Berlin.

No casualties were reported. At a news conference, national police chief Dieter Winderlich said prosecutors were already investigating possible criminal charges against those who ransacked the headquarters.

He claimed protesters had also broken into the building's section for counterespionage activities,

but that "the identity of the workers was not revealed."

Winderlich said damage at the building was in the "millions of marks."

However, earlier Tuesday, East Berlin police chief Dirk Bachmann gave a far lower damage estimate, saying it was "hundreds of thousands of marks."

Bachmann also said opposition group's calls for restraint had prevented injuries during the storming.

The secret police headquarters remained under control of an opposition-led "citizens committee," regular police officers and government representatives.

In a commentary Tuesday, the Communist Party daily newspaper Neues Deutschland said organisers of protests like that which preceded the storming of secret police headquarters must accept responsibility for the consequences.

"Responsibility also means having a clear idea about consequences before calling for a demonstration, so that things don't get out of hand," the newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Neues Deutschland added: "The call for 'no violence,' which has marked the street revolution from the start, becomes a farce when emotions break through the bounds of reason."

Dozens of protesters in the southern city of Cottbus pelted the local secret police building with rocks, and unsuccessfully tried to enter it.

Official news media also report-

ed that about 500,000 people demonstrated against the Communists and secret police in at least a dozen more cities Monday evening.

Modrow rushed to the East Berlin secret police headquarters, a complex about two blocks square. He pleaded with protesters to stop their plundering of the eight-storey building.

Looking worried, Modrow shouted through a loudspeaker system to the demonstrators, asking them "to stay in a dialogue" with his shaky coalition government.

Alternately facing angry interruptions and applause from the protesters, Modrow said he felt "full understanding" of the rage caused by decades of repression at the hands of the secret police.

Hours earlier, Modrow had offered opposition groups a far greater say in running the caretaker government before democratic elections May 6.

The protest actions are reaching further into virtually all parts of society and even all age groups. Increasingly, children are joining adults, including those in their 50s and 60s.

Opposition leaders in East Berlin issued several appeals Tuesday morning for calm and urged demonstrators to avoid further violence.

After weeks of talks with Modrow's government, the opposition returned Monday to the tactics that brought down the hardline government of Erich Honecker in October.

Reunited ANC leadership launches strategy talks

LUSAKA (R) — Leaders of the African National Congress (ANC), reunited after more than 25 years in jail and exile, began talks Tuesday aimed at defining their strategy for negotiations with the South African government.

Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki, leading a group of prominent ANC members who arrived here Monday to an emotional welcome from exiled comrades, made a brief public appearance to lay a wreath at a Zambian national monument.

ANC official Stanley Mazibela said they were to meet the nationalist movement's policy-making inner cabinet and then attend an official reception hosted by Zambian President

Kenneth Kaunda.

The arrival of Sisulu and his grey-haired group of prison veterans has lifted the morale of the 78-year-old organisation, driven into exile in the early 1960s.

But senior ANC officials said their trip was more than a sentimental reunion between men who last met 27 years ago.

"We don't want to be caught flat-footed," said National Executive Committee member Steve Tshwete, one of the younger leaders.

His comment reflected nationalist concern that the ANC might be outpaced by fast-moving changes inside South Africa and by President F.W. de Klerk's drive to seize the initiative from anti-apartheid forces.

The ANC committed itself last year to seek a negotiated settlement and says it is ready for talks with de Klerk if he meets certain conditions.

First among these is the release of Nelson Mandela, widely expected in the next few weeks.

Mandela's detention has been the focus of a highly successful worldwide campaign by the ANC but his release could backfire on the organisation if world opinion sees it as the end of South Africa's problems.

The ANC argue that any concessions made by de Klerk have been wrung from him by pressure and that South Africa must not be "let off the hook."

Noriega said to have sold weapons to both right, left

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deposed Panamanian ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega was heavily involved in international gunrunning, selling weapons to both the right and the left, according to Senate investigators.

At one point, pilots flying weapons for Noriega to the U.S.-supported contra rebels in Nicaragua are said by witnesses to have flown on to the United States with a cargo of narcotics.

Noriega, who controlled Panama's security apparatus, was well positioned to engage in "the gray market arms business," according to the 1983 report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on narcotics headed by Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

Even before the death of General Omar Torrijos, then Panama's ruling figure, in a mysterious 1981 plane crash, Noriega had the authority to issue certificates to legitimise the shipment of foreign arms to Panama.

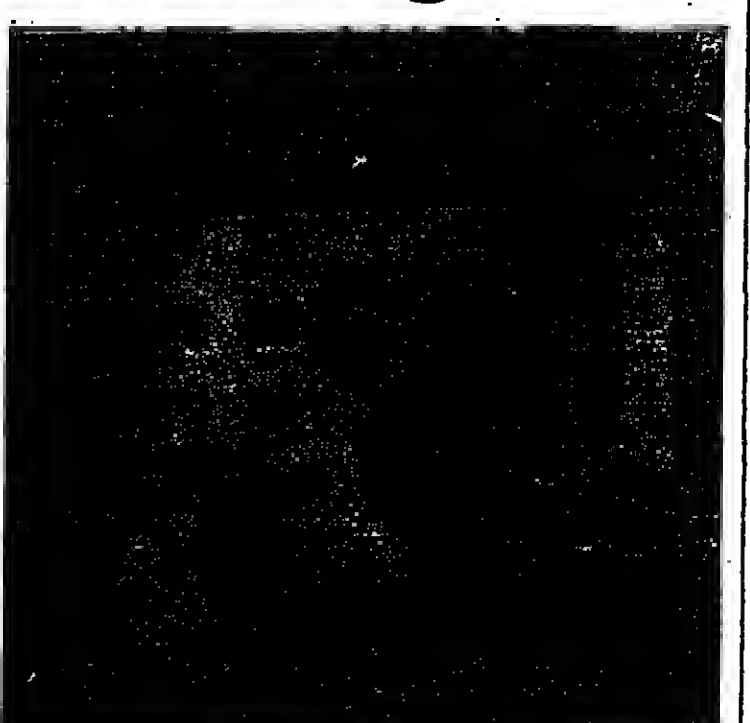
"Once in Panama, Noriega would sell the weapons to whomever bid the most for them," the committee said, citing the testimony of Jose Blandon, a former Panamanian intelligence official and one-time Noriega adviser.

Blandon told the subcommittee that Noriega's earliest clients in the late 1970s included the Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, who were successfully battling to oust that country's leader, Anastasio Somoza.

Noriega's associates purchased the weapons in Europe, brought them to Panama and then moved them into neighbouring Costa Rica for shipment to the Sandinistas.

Quoting Blandon, the report said that those buying guns for Noriega included Michael Harari, a retired agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

Harari who travelled to Israel immediately after U.S. troops invaded Panama last month, has been described as one of Noriega's closest advisers, a description he rejects as false.



Panamanians sift through ousted leader Manuel Noriega's offices as people looted the destroyed compound in Panama City

that although Noriega sold many weapons to the Sandinistas, "many more wound up in storage when the Sandinistas war ended in 1979."

Floyd Carlton, a former Noriega pilot, testified that the excess weapons were then "marketed by Panama to the rebels in El Salvador."

Carlton said he and his partner, Cesar Rodriguez, flew the weapons to El Salvador in 1980 using Panamanian military aircraft.

On one trip the plane Rodriguez was flying was damaged on takeoff and crashed when it attempted to land in El Salvador.

Carlton, flying a second Panamanian plane on the same weapons-delivery mission, said he pulled Rodriguez from the aircraft, put him on his plane and flew to Panama.

"When Salvadorean officials discovered the wreckage of the

Panamanian Defence Forces plane, the origin of the weapons was obvious," the panel said.

Noriega, seeking to expand his arms business, used his contacts with his military intelligence counterparts in Latin America "to find and develop weapons markets which he could supply profitably," the panel said.

In an apparent disregard for the ideology of his customers, one such market became the contra rebels in Nicaragua battling the now-ruling leftist Sandinistas, the panel said in its report, which was reviewed after Noriega was brought to the United States in early January to face drug charges.

C8LUMN

High noon on California freeway

LOS ANGELES (R) — One man was killed and another wounded Monday when two men who had an argument on a California freeway pulled out guns and opened fire, police said. A lorry and a van, each carrying at least two people, pulled over to the side of the Santa Ana freeway after an argument. "At least one occupant of each of the vehicles got out and exchanged some words and suddenly shots were fired," police spokesman Marc Hendrich said. One man died after being admitted to hospital and the other was listed in stable condition with a gunshot wound. Both were in their early twenties.

Hilda the Hippo dies after rescue

LONDON (R) — Hilda the hippo's brief taste of freedom ended in tragedy Monday. The 10-tonne hippopotamus escaped from her trailer onto a busy lane English highway but after being shot with a tranquiliser dart while being reloaded, "it didn't survive the drug that was used and the stress and trauma of the recapture," said Roger Cawley of Longleight Safari Park, Hilda's owners. Hilda, aged 10, was on her way to be paired with a mate at another safari park when her trailer ran out of control near Thruxton in Hampshire, allowing her to break free. Motorists swerved to avoid her and police sealed off the road. Cawley said Hilda grazed quietly by the roadside for nearly two hours, but failed to survive the difficult rescue involving poles, ropes and a tractor.

Blind rape victim identifies attacker

CHICAGO (R) — A blind victim picked out her attacker, smelling his cologne and feeling the roughness of his hands, leading to the arrest of a 14-year-old who lives in the same building, police said Monday. The 24-year-old victim picked the boy out of a lineup after the attack in the building's laundry room. Police said there were no other witnesses and were unsure whether the sensory identification would hold up in court. But they said the boy handed the victim a condom he used in the attack and police planned to test his body fluids. The boy was charged as a juvenile with criminal sexual assault.

Tourists go on hunger strike

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (R) — A group of foreign tourists began a hunger strike Monday after robbers rifled safe deposit boxes at their Rio hotel, saying the hotel manager had refused to reimburse them for their losses. The 18 Argentines, two Austrians, two Danes, two Spaniards, one American and an Israeli said robbers took \$120,000 worth of cash and valuables from 42 boxes at the Toledo Hotel in Copacabana Thursday. "This was to have been a dream vacation," said Rachel Buonavolenta from Cranford, New Jersey, who faces an eight-day stay in Rio living on borrowed money. The group said the hotel manager had offered only two free night's stay. No one from the management was available to comment. Rio is one of the most violent cities in the world, with an average of 18 murders a day. Crime spills over onto the beaches and streets frequented by the wealthy. Rio city authorities fighting to encourage tourists argue that crime here is no worse than in big cities elsewhere.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	°C	°F	WIND
AMSTERDAM	12	54	44	Cloudy
ATHENS	12	54	44	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	12	54	84	Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	77	81	Clear
BUSINESS	24	75	85	Clear
CAROL	07	45	63	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-03	27	12	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	02	36	48	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	05	41	51	Cloudy
GENEVA	-03	27	01	Cloudy
HONG KONG	10	50	14	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	02	36	48	Cloudy
LONDON	11	52	35	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	08	48	54	Clear
MADRID	01	34	53	Clear
MEXICO	18	61	28	Clear
MONTREAL	-04	25	12	Cloudy
MOSCOW	-04	25	12	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	09	48	28	Clear
NEW YORK	04	39	05	Cloudy
PARIS	07	45	11	Cloudy
ROME	02	36	11	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	18	64	20	Cloudy
TOKYO	01	34	05	Cloudy
VIENNA	-03	28	37	Cloudy